

## The Perfect Irish Rose and Irish Rose Leaf



The Irish Rose and Irish Rose Leaf are probably the most recognizable Irish Crochet motifs. Both are popular in Irish Crochet because they are three-dimensional. Overlapping layers create dimension in the rose while the leaf gets its texture from a padding cord.

Both are created with simple progressions of stitches. Once you learn these progressions, you can create both without referring to a pattern and you can easily modify them to fit perfectly into your current project.

### Abbreviations – US Terminology

Ch	chain	Scbl	single crochet in back loop
Dc	double crochet	Sl	slip
Hdc	half double crochet	Sl st	slip stitch
Rnd	round	Trc	treble crochet
Sc	single crochet		

## Perfect Irish Rose

The Irish Rose is created by simple repeats and progressions. First, a round of 8 repeating chain loops is made which is the base for the 8 petals in the next round. Then in subsequent rounds the length of the chain loop gets longer to hold more stitches in the petal and keep work flat. Below is the basic progression. Odd rounds are chain loop rounds and even rounds are petal rounds. Note the systematic increase in stitches shown by the colored numbers as the rose increases in size. (Each set of stitches shown is repeated 8 times per round with modifications at the beginning and end of each round so the round can be started and joined.)

Make a ring

Rnd 1: ch 2, dc in ring

Rnd 2: over ch loop (sc, hdc, 3 dcs, hdc, sc)

Rnd 3: ch 3, sc between petals

Rnd 4: over ch loop (sc, hdc, 4 dcs, hdc, sc)

Rnd 5: ch 4, sc between petals

Rnd 6: over ch loop (sc, hdc, 5 dcs, hdc, sc)

Rnd 7: ch 5, sc between petals

Rnd 8: over ch loop (sc, hdc, 6 dcs, hdc, sc)

Here are the instructions written out fully in standard crochet terminology.

Ch 8, sl st in first ch to join.

Rnd 1: Ch 5 (counts as first dc in ring and ch 2), (dc in ring, ch 2) 7 times, sl st in 3<sup>rd</sup> ch of rnd to join.

Rnd 2: (Over ch 2 loop sc, hdc, 3 dcs, hdc, sc) 8 times, sl st in first sc of rnd to join.

Rnd 3: Ch 3, (sc between next two petals of rnd 2, ch 3) 7 times, sl st in 1<sup>st</sup> ch of rnd.

Rnd 4: (Over ch 3 loop sc, hdc, 4 dcs, hdc, sc) 8 times, sl st in first sc of rnd to join.

Rnd 5: Ch 4, (sc between next two petals of rnd 4, ch 4) 7 times, sl st in 1<sup>st</sup> ch of rnd.

Rnd 6: (Over ch 4 loop sc, hdc, 5 dcs, hdc, sc) 8 times, sl st in first sc of rnd to join.

Rnd 7: Ch 5, (sc between next two petals of rnd 6, ch 5) 7 times, sl in 1<sup>st</sup> sc of rnd.

Rnd 8: (Over ch 5 loop sc, hdc, 6 dcs, hdc, sc) 8 times, sl st in first sc of rnd to Join.

End.

## Attachment of Chain Loops



Irish Rose on left has loops in odd rounds attached with single crochet between petals. Irish Rose on right has loops in odd rounds attached with slip stitch behind petals. Other than point of attachment of loops, the two roses are worked identically.

The Irish Rose created above gives a very flat Irish Rose. This works well for doilies where an object might be set on it (the object is less likely to tip over) but for Irish Crochet I want a fuller rose. This can be accomplished by decreasing the distance from one round of chain loops to the next.

Most instructions attach the chain loops to the petal round with a single crochet between the petals working in a continuous circle as for a doily. For a fuller rose, I turn the work after the petal round and on the back side locate the two strands of thread that form an inverted V around the post of the dc in round 3.



back of rose with orange thread under inverted V      back of rose with crochet hook under inverted V

Single crochet or slip stitch around the inverted V to attach chain loop to petal round. A slip stitch will provide the fluffiest rose. I make my first slip stitch in the inverted V directly below where I joined the previous round, (3 - 5 chains, slip stitch under next inverted V) around ending with last slip stitch in same place as first slip

stitch of round. Then I turn the work to the front and work the petal stitches. Work under the inverted V on all loop rounds.

Fullness progression by modifying attachment of loops in loop round –

flat – single crochet between petals on front

medium fullness – single crochet under inverted V on back

very full – slip stitch under inverted V on back

## **Vary Number of Rounds**

The Irish Rose can be made with any number of rounds desired. A single round of petals is ideal for a flat doily, placemat or other item that will have objects set on it. More rounds make a fuller rose, perhaps one that is the focal point of a design. Just continue the progression adding more stitches.

## **Increase Height of Petals**

Another way to increase rose fullness is to increase the height of the petals. Increasing the height of the petals makes the petals overlap more. I use this method less frequently than changing the placement of the chain loops because with some threads taller petals tend to curl in toward the center of the flower.

The basic stitch progression for a petal is

sc, hdc, 3 dc, hdc, sc

This gives an even increase in stitch height toward the center of the petal without shorter stitches pulling on longer stitches and causing the longer stitches to curl toward the center.

For taller petals this progression can be modified in several ways but the simplest is to change the double crochets to treble crochets. Add one double crochet to the “stair step stitches” on either edge of the petal so the “stair step” still works without curling.

sc, hdc, 3 dcs, hdc, sc becomes  
sc, hdc, dc, 1 trc, dc, hdc, sc

then increase the number of treble crochets in subsequent rounds. You can add in extended stitches to form an even smoother curve.



## Number of Petals

Most Irish Roses have 8 petals. In crocheting squares, eight repeats puts one petal in the center of each side and one petal in each corner. But sometimes Irish Roses are made with 5 or 6 petals.

You need a certain number of stitches to make a circle lie flat. Rnd 1 of the sample rose is

(ch 2, dc) times 8 repeats = 24 stitches

If you decrease the number of petals to 5 or 6, you still need about 24 stitches in Rnd 1 so that the rose lies flat. So for 5 or 6 petals

(ch x, dc) times 5 = 24 (or there about)    x = 4 chains in chain loop

(ch x, dc) times 6 = 24 (or there about)    x = 3 chains in chain loop

This will work fine for a rose with just a few rounds but if you follow the progression above you only add 5 or 6 stitches to each round where in an 8 petal rose you add 8 stitches to each round. After a few rounds, your rose may start to cup as you don't have enough stitches in subsequent rounds to keep it flat. You may have to break the strict progression and add additional stitches to some later rounds.

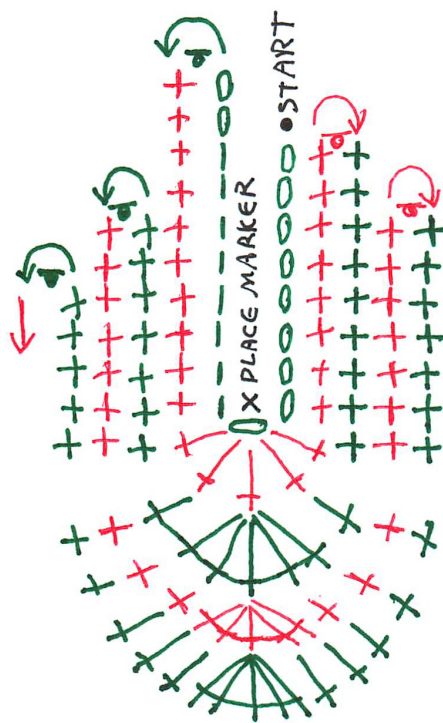
## The Perfect Irish Rose Leaf

A textured Rose Leaf with veins and serrated edges is traditionally used with the Irish Rose. The Rose Leaf is traditionally made with padding cord. Padding cord makes the leaf stiffer and allows you to shape it. The leaf can be made without padding cord.

### Rose Leaf with Padding Cord

Cut 2 inch length of thread for stitch marker. Cut two 3 foot lengths threads for padding cord for size 30 thread, more or less as needed for other sizes of thread.

To work over padding cord, hold all strands of padding cord along the tops of the stitches. Single crochet in the back loop of the stitch and around the strands of padding cord all at once.



### The Perfect Irish Crochet Leaf

*from LaceButtons.com*

- START
- | ● SLIP STITCH OVER PADDING CORD
- | CHAIN
- | ● SLIP STITCH IN BOTTOM LOOP
- + SINGLE CROCHET
- X PLACE MARKER
- ⊗ SINGLE CROCHET 5 TIMES IN SAME STITCH
- ↪ TURN
- ↪ CONTINUE IN PATTERN

Rows are worked in a U-shape with a turn at the end of each row.

Foundation Row: Ch 9, place short thread to mark 9<sup>th</sup> ch by laying it over the last ch made, turn, skip ch just made, working back along the chain and around the thread marker just placed (sl st in bottom loop) 8 times, ch 2, hold 2 lengths of padding cord together and fold in half, sl st through fold to attach padding cord (this gives you 4 strands of padding cord), turn.

Note – slip stitching through bottom loop on the return leg of the U-shape puts the top of the stitches (that “V” that you insert your hook under in a regular single crochet) up on both sides of the U-shape making it easier to work the next round.

Row 1: **Work all remaining stitches over all 4 strands of padding cord**, (scbl of ch) 2 times, (scbl of sl st) 8 times, 5 scbl in marked stitch, scbl 8 times, sl st over padding cord, turn.

Note – slip stitch over padding cord makes it easier to turn your work and substitutes as the turning chain.

Note – you may need to rotate your work toward you to find the back loop of the “V” for the first 8 stitches.

Note – it is easy to miss the stitch immediately after ‘5 scbl in the marked stitch’. It gets squished by the 5 scbl in the previous stitch. If your stitch count is off, check to see if you skipped this stitch (applies equally to subsequent rows).

Note – at the beginning of row 2, you can add the beginning tail in with the padding cord to hide it.

Row 2: Scbl 10 times, pull up on padding cord as needed to hide padding cord at tip of leaf, 5 scbl in next st, scbl 8 times, sl st over padding cord, turn.

Row 3: Scbl 10 times, pull up on padding cord as needed to hide padding cord at tip of leaf, scbl 10 times, sl st over padding cord, turn.

Row 4: Scbl 12 times, pull up on padding cord as needed to hide padding cord at tip of leaf, 5 scbl in next st, scbl 10 times, sl st over padding cord, turn.

Row 5: Scbl 12 times, pull up on padding cord as needed to hide padding cord at tip of leaf, scbl 12 times, sl st over padding cord, turn.

Row 6: Scbl 14 times, pull up on padding cord as needed to hide padding cord at tip of leaf, drop 2 of the 4 strands of padding cord, over just 2 strands of padding cord scbl 2 times, drop remaining 2 strands of padding cord, sl st in back loop 2 times, end. Separate the strands of padding cord that were dropped 2 stitches early from the two dropped later. Take one strand from the earlier pair and one strand from the later pair and knot them together. Repeat for other two strands. Work in tails.

## Stitch Progression

Progression of stitch count    first leg of U, center, second leg of U

Row 2:	10,	5,	8
Row 3:	10,	5,	10
Row 4:	12,	5,	10
Row 5:	12,	5,	12
Row 6:	14,	5,	12

You can make larger leaves by adding more rows and continuing the progression.  
You can make pointer leaves by increasing the length of the beginning chain.

### **Rose Leaf Without Padding Cord**

You can work the Rose Leaf without padding cord. Just substitute a 'ch 1' for the 'sl st over padding cord' and omit other references to padding cord. The leaf will be flatter and softer without the padding cord.