



basic bralette tutorial

Materials:

3.50 mm hook
 #4 weight cotton yarn (although you can make it with any weight yarn / hook size combo as long as you know your gauge!) 1-3 skeins depending on size made
 Stitch markers
 Scissors & Tapestry Needle
 Measuring Tape

Measurements

Band Size (measured around the rib cage just under the bust): For example, my measurement would be 32"

Measurement A : $(\text{Band size} " / 4) = \text{Length of each side of completed triangle cup}$ (My example would be $[32 / 4] = 8"$). Therefore, my Measurement A = 8"

Measurement B: $(\text{Measurement A}) - 2 = \text{My Measurement B}$ would be 6"

Note that the sample in the pictures doesn't use the same measurements as my example math above.

Size: The Basic Bralette can be modified in size to any size that you like, but because of the flatter nature of the cups it really works best for sizes Small – Medium (32A – 34B). The Curvier version uses a border to draw the cups in more, creating a deeper cup for larger busts and works better for C cups and some B cups depending on the shape. ***(Curvy directions found in main pattern and on Pg. 13)***

Note that you can also just hold the work up to you and compare size – the math doesn't have to be exact if you'd rather eyeball it!

Gauge:

You can have differing gauges for this project, as long as you know what your gauge is in order to achieve the right measurements.

My gauge with the given hook and yarn is: 9 sts & 4 rows = 2" in dc

To find your gauge, crochet a square of double crochet stitches about 15-20 sts long and about 6 rows tall.



Use a measuring tape to find out how many dc sts per inch/es in your gauge swatch.



Measure vertically to find out how many rows per inch/es in your gauge swatch. My swatch has 9 sts in every 2 inches (measured by 2 inches because we don't want to have 4.5 sts per inch because it's not a whole number) and 4 rows for every 2 inches, so my gauge is **9 sts and 4 rows = 2" in dc.**

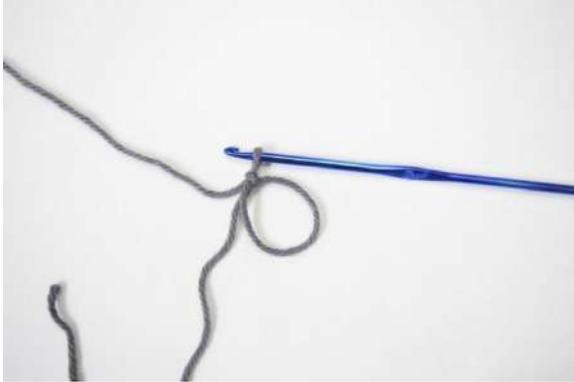
Notes on Pattern:

Ch-2 at the beginning of rounds do not count as the first dc. Depending on your gauge, you can substitute the traditional ch-3 in place of this beginning chain if the ch-2 is too short.

Instructions:

Triangle Cups (Make 2)

Make Magic Ring to begin.



Rnd 1: Ch 2 (does not count as first st), (3 dc into the ring, ch 2) 3 times. Join with a sl st to the first dc. Pull the tail to close the ring tightly.– 9 dc



Rnd 2: Ch 2, 1 dc into the same st. 1 dc in ea of the next 2 dc. In the next space, work 2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc. (1 dc in ea of the next 3 dc. In the next sp

work 2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) repeat within parentheses twice. Join with a sl st to the first dc. – 21 dc



Rnd 3: Ch 2, 1 dc in the same st. 1 dc in ea of the next 4 dc. In the next space, work 2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc. (1 dc in ea of the next 7 dc. In the next sp work 2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) rpt within parentheses

twice. 1 dc in ea of the next 2 dc. Join with a sl st to the first dc. – 33 dc



Rnd 4: Ch 2, 1 dc in the same st. 1 dc in ea of the next 6 dc. In the next space, work 2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc. (1 dc in ea of the next 11 dc. In the next sp work 2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) rpt within parentheses twice. 1 dc in ea of the next 4 dc. Join with a sl st to the first dc. – 45 dc

*Continue working in pattern until the sides of your triangle each match your **Measurement A**. Remember that this piece will stretch, so you may want your sides to be just a little under this measurement to account for that.*

It's also a good idea to grab the 3 corners of your triangle and stretch them out evenly as you are working, so you get a better idea of how your length is progressing!

I made this sample piece around 8", and so wrote out the following rounds I used to get that measurement in my gauge – but you can work as many or as few rounds in pattern as you need. Add extra rounds by continuing to (2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) at the ch-2 corners to increase, and dc in each dc across the sides.

For Curvy Bralettes (bigger cup sizes): Continue working as advised above, until the last few rounds of the cup. To get more depth in the cup, switch from working the established increases at the chain spaces to tapering down how many stitches are at the corners. **Small Increase: (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc)**

Smaller Increase (1 dc, ch 1, 1 dc)

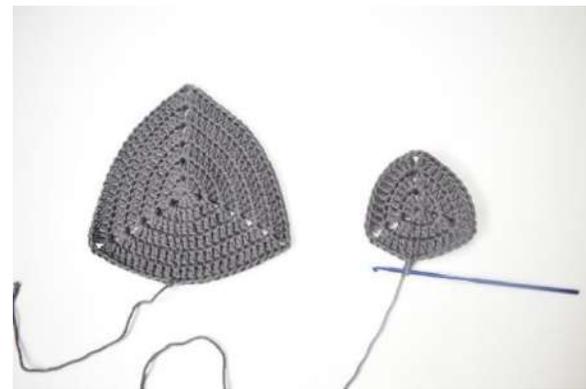
No Increase (1 dc in ea ch st)

The smaller the increase, the sharper the cup will curve inward to cradle the bust. You can work a series of tapers or just one depending on your size needs.

Rnd 5: Ch 2, 1 dc in the same st. 1 dc in ea of the next 8 dc. In the next space, work 2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc. (1 dc in ea of the next 15 dc. In the next sp work 2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) rpt within parentheses twice. 1 dc in ea of the next 6 dc. Join with a sl st to the first dc. – 57 dc

Rnd 6: Ch 2, 1 dc in the same st. 1 dc in ea of the next 10 dc. In the next space, work 2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc. (1 dc in ea of the next 19 dc. In the next sp work 2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) rpt within parentheses twice. 1 dc in ea of the next 8 dc. Join with a sl st to the first dc. – 69 dc

After finishing the first triangle, cut yarn and tie off. Complete a second triangle, but leave the yarn attached when finished.



Arrange the two triangles (which we will now refer to as cups) with RS facing, your hook positioned on top, so that the two flat sides with the joins are facing "up". Take a locking stitch marker and run it through each chain st on the corner where the two cups meet.



Now, count the number of dc stitches between where your hook is positioned to the middle point, counting neither the joined stitch nor the middle point stitch – I have 12 in the sample.



Take a second marker, count out the same number of stitches on the opposite cup away from the middle point, then mark the next st (so you have a section between the middle point and the marked stitch equal to the section on the other side).



From the point where your hook is positioned, you will work $\frac{1}{3}$ the amount of stitches (between your hook and the middle point) in sc, $\frac{1}{3}$ in hdc, $\frac{1}{3}$ dc for the first section – in the example this is 4 sc, 4 hdc, 4 dc. If $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of your number is not a whole number, round down and add the extra stitches into the dc total. So, if you have 14 stitches in this section, you'd do 4 sc, 4 hdc, 6 dc (4 dc + 2 extra = 6).

These two ch sts will be worked together as one stitch, now referred to as the middle point.



Next, 1 dc into the middle stitch, working your stitch through both ch stitches at once. In the next section, work the same quantities of stitches, except mirrored – in the example this is 4 dc, 4 hdc, 4 sc. Sl st in the next stitch (with the marker). Cut yarn and tie off. Remove all markers.



Band:

For the band, we will add the length of stitches equal to Measurement B on either side. The Measurement B for this sample is 4", so since

my gauge is 9 sts = 2", I will need to add 18 stitches to either side of the cups.

Row 1: Ch length of stitches needed to equal Measurement B (18 here). Dc in the 2nd ch in the corner of the cup, RS facing. Dc in ea st across to the next ch st on opposite corner, ch number same number of stitches as beginning.



Row 2: Ch 2, turn and work 1 dc in the 4th ch from the hook, working into the underside loop of each chain stitch (first 3 ch sts count as first dc). 1 dc in ea st across.



Row 3: Ch 3, turn (counts as first dc). 1 dc in ea st across.

Rpt Row 3 until the band is the width that you'd like, and totals an even number of rows. (I did 6 total rows of dc). Do not tie off.

The next part works around the entire top to create eyelets in the back and add the straps.

If you have a curvier bust, follow the modification for the Curvy Bralette design from here on, given below this pattern.

Round 4: Rotate the piece so that you are ready to work into the row ends of the band. Ch 4 (counts as first dc + ch1). (Dc, ch 1) in the side of each dc at the row ends, across the side of the band. In the last row, work 1 dc into the very edge of the stitch, skip the chain 1.

Rotate the piece, beginning to work across the top of the band. Ch 1, hdc in the side of the dc of the eyelet row. 1 hdc in ea stitch across, stopping one st before the Row 1 dc at the bottom of the cups. Skip this stitch, the dc, and the chain space at the corner of the cup, 1 hdc in the next dc on the side of the cup (*For larger cups or for tighter coverage, you may want to skip a few extra stitches to keep the cup edges tight – I skipped about 5 total stitches on mine*). 1 hdc in ea dc toward the top of the cup. 1 hdc, 1 dc in the next chain space.





Strap: Ch 200 – 300 (depending on bust size – each strap will go over the shoulder, cross the back, and then criss-cross back and forth. You may want to cross more or less, like a certain level of tightness, etc – so there is no solid rule about how many to chain here. My default is to chain more than I need, then undo part of the chain later once I've tried the top on and know how long I need the chain to actually be). Cut yarn and tie off.

Above: Skipping one st before the corner, the chain stitch on the corner, and one stitch after.



Above: Skipping 2 sts before the corner, the chain stitch corner, and two sts after.



Rejoin yarn to the chain strap 6 chain stitches away from the top of the cup. Slip stitch in ea of the next 4 sts toward the top of the cup, stopping before the last ch st. Ch 1. 1 dc, 1 hdc in the chain space. 1 hdc in the next dc.



Chain a number of stitches until you have just enough length to get the end of the chain to the middle of the two cups – typically equal to the amount of stitches you are about to skip (depending on gauge). Skip working the rest of the cup and sc in the stitch in the middle.

Note that the chain length pictured in the image directly below is too loose! I made it longer so that it would be more visible in the photograph. It should sit tightly along the edge of the cup once secured at the middle point, as pictured in the second image below.



Repeat length of chain, skip side of next cup, 1 hdc in the dc right before the chain space. You will want your chains here to be fairly tight, to avoid floppy straps. Now is a good time to practice the “holding it up to yourself as you work” method, since each bust is different.



1 hdc in the next ch space, 1 dc in the same space. Work a second chain strap equal in length to the first. Cut yarn, tie off, and rejoin in the chain strap 6 sts away from the last dc. Slip stitch in the next 4 sts, ch 1, 1 dc in the same ch space, 1 hdc in the same space.



1 hdc in ea dc down the side of the cup. Sk next chain corner, dc, and first st at the top of the band (or as many as you skipped on the opposite side). 1 hdc in ea st across to the corner.

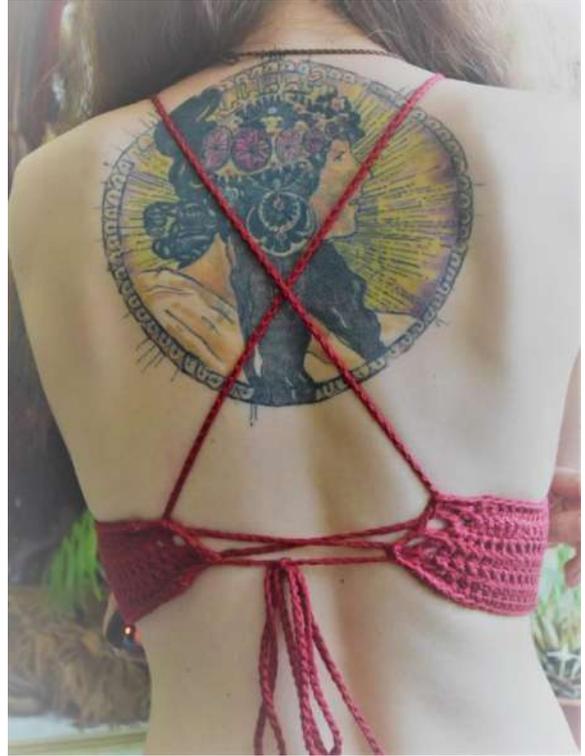


Rotate piece, ch 4 (counts as first dc + ch-1). (Dc, ch 1) in ea dc at the ends of the rows of the band. In the last st, 1 dc at the very edge, sk chain.



Rotate piece to begin working across the bottom of the band again. Ch 1, 1 hdc in the side of the last dc worked for eyelet row. 1 hdc in ea st across the bottom of the band, stopping at the ch-3 that counts as the first dc for the eyelet row. 1 sc in the next st, sl st in the next 2 sts. Cut yarn and tie off.





Weave in all ends, except for the ends of the chain straps.

Now, put on the top and cross the chain straps at the back as shown. You can criss-cross string the straps through all the eyelets, or just some of them. I normally only cross them a couple times (see the image of the red bralette). Whichever way you decide, you can then see how much strap length you actually need.

Pick out the tie-off you made, and rip out the extra chain stitches until your straps are the length that you need. Tie off again and cut off the extra yarn.





I used my extra yarn to make little tassels, which is both cute and helps hide the yarn tail at the end of the chain so that I don't have to weave it in.

Voila! Your Basic Bralette is born.

Curvy Bralette Modification:

To begin, follow the instructions for the Basic Bralette from the two triangle cups all the way through the Row 3 repeats of the band, then stop – do not tie off.



Edging:

1. Ch 4 (counts as dc + ch-1), rotate the piece so that you are working into the side of the stitches on the row ends. (Dc into the side of the next st, ch 2, sk next st) 2 times. Dc into the side of the last stitch.



2. Ch 4 (counts as dc + ch-1). Rotate your piece so that you are working into the next un-edged side. Dc in the same stitch, ch-2 to turn the corner.



3. (Sk next 2 sts, dc in the next st, ch-1) repeat across the row until you reach the corner of the cup. *The ch-1, skip 2 repeat here reduces the overall length of the edge along the sides and cup to help it curve inward to fit a curvy bust – if this is too tight for you, you can do ch-2, skip 2 instead in these instructions and in the instructions following*



4. Sk next 2 sts and the dc on the bottom row of the cup. Dc into the top of the first unworked dc on the side of the cup, as shown. Ch 1. (Sk next 2 sts, dc in the next st, ch-1) along the side of the cup.
5. (Dc, ch 1) 2 times in the top corner of the cup, in the ch-2 space. Depending on how many dc's you have in each side of the cup, you might want to place a dc, ch-1 in the stitches right before and after this space. Since this is where the ties will go, you don't want the turn very tight.



6. (Sk next 2 sts, dc in the next st, ch 1) along the next side of the cup. A few stitches before the end, skip to the next cup, making sure there are an equal amount of skipped stitches on either side so it is mirrored. The more you skip, the tighter the cups will be, so you can customize based on your size.



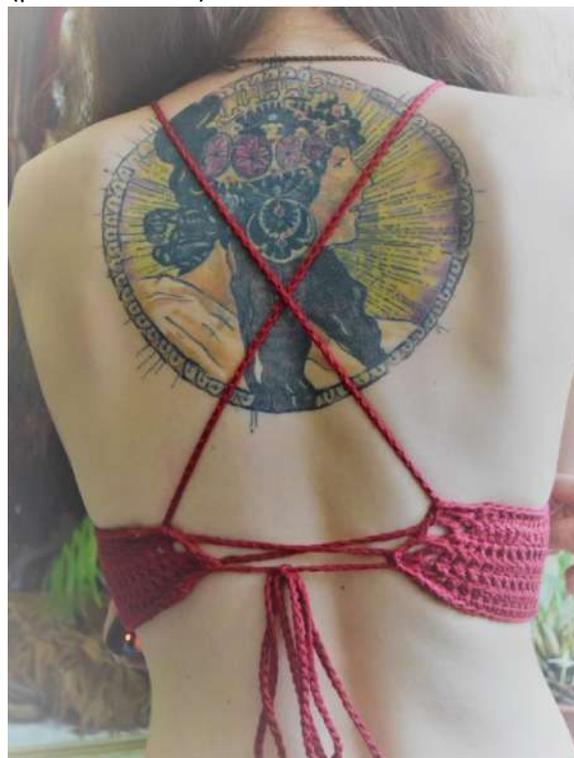


7. Repeat the same process over the other cup's
2 sides, mirroring the first half: Work 2 (dc, ch 1) repeats in the other cup's top corner, (dc, ch 1, sk 2 sts) down the side skipping the same amount of stitches at the corner, then across the top of the band. Dc, ch 2, dc in the same stitch at the corner. (Ch 2, sk next st, dc in the side of the next dc) across the row ends at the side of the band. Dc in the last dc -I added an extra dc in this stitch too to make it more even with the bottom band.)



8. Ch 4 (counts as first dc + ch-1). Turn, (dc in the next ch space, ch-1) across the last row of edging until you reach the corner. (Dc, ch 1) 3 times in the corner space.
9. (Dc in the next space, ch 1) all across the last row of edging in the bralette, placing (dc, ch 1) repeats at the top corners of the cups. I left the top corners free, because I used t-shirt yarn ties for this one, but if you're crocheting your ties, add them on by chaining

the length you want, then slip stitching back down the chain to return to the top corner of the cup. The Ties need to be long enough to cross over the back, and criss-cross the openings on the band sides to adjust it (pictured below).



10. To make it strappy: after chaining your strap (or not). Anchor your yarn with a dc in the first stitch of the next cup side. Count the amount of stitches left in the side of the cup – I have 8 repeats of (dc, ch 1) so altogether that's 16 stitches. Chain your number, then skip the cup side and single crochet in the center ch-1 space. Chain the same number again, then skip to the last dc of the next side of the cup, dc in that stitch.

Repeat the edging across the rest of the bralette, mirroring the first side, all the way to across the band side, then cut yarn and tie off. Weave in all your ends, then rock on!



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Questions about this pattern are welcomed at:
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