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## **Crochet a Lacy Top** with Tian Connaughton

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### **Chapter 1 - Crochet a Lacy Top**

#### Overview

(gentle music) - Let's play with stitch patterns, textures, and interesting techniques. My name is Tian Connaughton. I am a knit and crochet designer. I'm going to show you how to crochet this beautiful, lacy tee, which is super fun and works up super fast. The top is versatile and will fit perfectly into any wardrobe. For this project, we'll be doing a few different crochet techniques, such as ribbing and the lace pattern. While this project might be a little bit challenging, if you are an absolute beginner, don't worry. I will walk you through every stitch of the way.

#### Materials

- For the lacy tee, you'll need the following materials. You'll need yarn in worsted weight. Refer back to the PDF of this project for the number of skeins you will need for your size. For the crochet hooks, you'll need a size H hook for the ribbing. You will also need a size K hook for the body of your tee. You'll need a tapestry needle for weaving in ends and some stitch markers to mark your place. Also you'll need measuring tape and a pair of scissors. Optionally, you'll need blocking material, such as blocking mats, tee pins, and water. Print out a copy of the PDF to follow along.

#### Swatching

- Before we start our garment, I like to recommend that we start with a gauge swatch to ensure that your finished piece will fit perfectly. For our gauge, we'll make a swatch that is about six-by-six or larger and we'll be using our larger hook, which is the K hook. We'll start with a slipknot, which you'll just wrap the yarn around your finger and pull through, holding both tails. We'll insert our hook and tighten that up. And for our example, we will make 22 chains for our swatch. We like to have our swatch be around a six-by-six. We want a nice big piece that we can measure on. I like to start with about 20 or 22 stitches. We have three, four. We'll just yarn over and pull through. Simple chain. We'll just do a quick count to make sure we have 22. Four, six, eight, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 22. And we want our swatch to be worked up in the same stitch pattern as our tee, which is mostly in double crochet, so we'll work our swatch in double crochet. We'll skip our first two chains, yarn over and insert in a third chain, and pull up a loop and pull through two, yarn over and pull through two more. We'll yarn over, insert in that next chain, yarn over, pull through two, yarn over, pull through two. You'll do that all the way across until we have 20 double crochet stitches. And don't work too loose or too tight. We wanna use the same tension that we would intend to use on our tee. That was our last double crochet. We'll chain two. That chain two does not count as a stitch, so we'll work a double crochet in our first stitch and all the way across. And you will repeat this until your swatch measures about six inches or larger. Here we are with our completed swatch that's about a six-by-six. Next, we wanna block out our swatch. We'll need to use our blocking mats, our T-pin, measuring tape, and some water. We'll lay our swatch on our blocking mats. If you don't have blocking mats, you can use the carpet in your home or you can use your bed or a couch, just to make sure no one's sitting there because you will be using pins. You'll pin corners. Try not to stretch your fabric too much. We're going to just use these T-pins to hold our piece in place. Then we'll take our water (sprayer clicking) and spray. And what this does, it helps to relax the fabric. Because as we were crocheting the swatch, there's a lot of tension. The fabric is getting really tight, so we

wanna have it relax and chill for a minute. We will let our swatch dry for a few hours or overnight until it's completely dry. We don't want it damp or a little moist. We want it completely dry before we start taking our measurements for our gauge. Our swatch is completely dry, and now it's time to take some measurements. For this pattern, the gauge that we're going for is 15 stitches wide and 10 rows tall for over four inches. We'll take our trusty, dandy measuring tape and we'll measure four inches. And I like to just pin at the four-inch mark and then count my stitches. So, count across to make sure you have 15 stitches. Then we'll also count our rows to ensure that you have 10 rows over four inches. And this is why I love my swatch being so large because we have multiple areas that we can take our measurements from. Because as you can see, our edge gets a little wonky, so if our whole piece was four inches, we would have a little bit of inconsistency on the edge. So, we wanna measure within the swatch and not overlap on the edges. 'Cause those edges are wonky. Okay? We'll make sure that our four inches are measured here. Count your rows to ensure you have 10 rows. If you don't have the 15 stitches or 10 rows over four inches, you can adjust your hook size, either go up or down, until you've reached our recommended gauge.

### Crochet the back

- For the back, we're starting at the bottom rib and working our way all the way to the top and finish off with another set of ribbing. I've chained 15 using the smaller hook. And from here, we'll single crochet starting in the second chain from the hook all the way across for 14 single crochet. And to single crochet, insert your hook, pull up a loop and pull through two. And we'll continue that all the way across to the end. The last chain, single crochet, we'll chain one and turn our work. And to make the ribbing, we will single crochet all the way across in the back loop only. So here we have our typical single crochet stitch. Normally, we would crochet through both loops, to create the ribbing we'll only crochet through the back loop here. Take a single crochet all the way across. So find that little V and just work into that back loop only. When we're done with this row, I'll show you what that looks like. And make sure to count your stitches, 'cause it's easy to miss that last stitch at the end. So, again, we'll chain one and turn our work. And just like the last row, we'll single crochet into the back loops only. So there we have our single crochet V-stitch. Instead of going through both, we will just go through the back loop. Again, don't miss that last stitch at the end. And that's what our ribbon begins to look like. And this will be the direction it will go on your sweater, up and down. So continue working row two of the ribbing until you've achieved the size given in the pattern. For the size we're working on today, we're making the smallest size. And our measurement for the rib is 13 inches. Again, double check the pattern for your size to see how long you'll need to work the ribbing for your size. And we're on the last stitch of our ribbing. And now we'll start to work on adding the body stitches across the top of our rib, and I have a trick for doing that. For our size, we're working the smallest size of the pattern, so we'll have 55 double crochets across the top. And I have a trick for doing that, so you don't have to keep ripping back out over and over to make sure that you have achieved the number of stitches you need evenly. And what I do is I evenly space stitch markers, right? Starting from maybe the halfway point place a stitch marker, because we wanna have even increments so that we know that, okay, we have 10 stitches between each marker to achieve our goals, or whatever the number of stitches you will need. For us, we need 55. So we'll place four stitch markers, and we'll know that we need 11 between each one. And you can get your measuring tool out and measure it to make sure yours are evenly spaced. Now let's switch to our larger hook, we'll chain two. And this chain two at the beginning does not count as a stitch. We'll double crochet right next to it. And we'll work across, add in 11 double crochets in between each

stitch marker until we achieve 55. To double crochet, yarn over, insert your hook, pull through two loops, and then pull through two. And just keep doing that all the way across, just counting your stitches until you've achieved the number of stitches you need for your size. And here we have our 11 double crochet stitches for our first stitch marker. And we'll continue to work 11 double crochets in between until we've achieved 55 total stitches. And sometimes you'll be working across and you end up with more stitches on one end of your spacing. For example, here I have two, four, six, eight, nine stitches, and I need 11, so we have this huge gap here. What you can do is you can rip back a couple or just continue to space the rest of your stitches as evenly as possible. If there's a little gap, don't worry about it. This is a very airy T. And then just continue across. So here we are at the last stitch of row one, and this one is going to be a little difficult. And, unfortunately, I've run out of yarn. Hopefully, this doesn't happen to you, but this can happen if there's a break in your yarn or something else happened. So what you can do is begin your double crochet as normal, pull through two. Take your new yarn and pull through your last two loops on your hook and just tighten up those two ends, and just let them sit there dangling. They'll be fine until we are ready to weave in our ends. And that's the end of row one. We'll chain two and turn our work. And, again, our beginning chain does not count as a stitch, so we'll double crochet across our entire row. It's working into each of those 55 stitches. And you'll continue to work row two until your piece measures 10 inches. We'll show you how to create the sleeves at that point. So keep working until you've achieved 10 inches total from the hem. And we're finishing up our row before we start the sleeves. So a few more double crochet here. And our last double crochet. And before we start our sleeve, let's measure to make sure that we're at 10 inches for our body so far, or close. And it looks like we are spot on. So now we will work our next row, which will incorporate the sleeve. So we'll chain two, we'll turn our work. And in our very first stitch, we will work to double crochets. And we'll take our stitch markers and place them right in the bottom of the stitch here. And we'll use that, that's there for a purpose though. Stick those there and work across to the end of this row. Coming to the end of our row. And when you have one stitch left, we'll work two double crochets into that stitch to match the beginning. Again, place another stitch marker at the base of those double crochets. So there you have it. This is where our little sleeves will begin at the stitch markers. Continue to chain two and double crochet across until you've achieved the height that's given in the pattern for your size. Or if you wanna change it up, go for it. And we're at our last double crochet for our sleeve. We'll measure again, that we're at our four inches. And now we'll switch back to our smaller hook to begin the top ribbon. And how we'll do this is we will chain 11. We'll turn our work. We'll be single crocheting into the second chain from the hook, and we'll insert and pull through. And we'll do that for 10 single crochets. And that should give you an additional two inches in height at the neck line. And we single crochet. And the next thing we would do is we insert into this first stitch of the body and we'll slip stitch. And we'll do it again insert through that stitch of the body, pull through, and just pull through without doing a yarn over. And there we have the first part of our rib. Turn your work. And those two slip stitches we just did, you can see them here and here, we will skip those and work right into that first back loop of our single crochet. And there's our V, we'll work into the back. There's our V again, then single crochet. This first row is a bit tight, so work a little looser. You should have 10 single crochets here. And the last one. We'll chain one and turn our work, and just do that again. So we'll work into the back loop of our V, we'll work 10 of those. Nine and 10. We're gonna find the body stitches, and we're gonna slip stitch into that next one, and the next one. And turn our work. Again, skip the first slip stitches, which is here and here, and work into the back of that single crochet for 10 single crochet. And you'll just keep repeating these two rows

all the way across the top of your body. And this is what it should start to look like. And the ribbing will start to grow across the top of the body and look similar to the bottom. So keep going, repeat those last two rows until you're all the way across. And we're finishing up the final row of the rib. Work our last single crochet. And you might only have one stitch left on the body, just work a slip stitch, and fasten off. Break your yarn and you're done. And there's your ribbing. And we have an option for your sleeve, which you can simply take your yarn, and using the larger hook, we want to start at the top of our neck line, join the yarn with a slip stitch. And we're just gonna pull it through and slip your stitch. Chain two and double crochet into that same spot, because our chain twos do not count as a double crochet. And, again, just evenly, as much as possible, double crochet down to where we have our stitch marker. And we're doing this to give your sleeve edge a nice finish. It's optional, you can definitely not include this. But I like to have my garments have a nice finish so it looks more store bought maybe than homemade. And, again, this is a lacy T, so if you have a couple gaps, no worries. You're gonna work to the marker. And we'll switch to our smaller hook and work just one more row, and that will tighten up your sleeve just a little bit. So chain two and double crochet to the end, and then you're done with your sleeve. And our last double crochet, fasten off, break your yarn, pull through. Do that again for the other sleeve, and then you're done with the back. We have our bottom rib, our body, our sleeve, which is optional, and the top ribbing.

#### Crochet the front

- Now we're onto the front, you'll begin the same as we did for the back with the ribbing and your first row of double crochet stitches across the top. And now we're on to row two, the lace pattern row. So we'll chain two. Our chain two does not count as a stitch. And then we will double crochet 14 across. And then we'll start the lace pattern. Refer to the PDF pattern for your size, for the number of stitches you'll need to work before starting the lace pattern. And for the first row of the lace pattern, we will chain two, skip these next two stitches and double crochet in the next three stitches. We'll do that again. Chain two. We'll skip these two stitches, one, two, and double crochet in that next stitch. And we'll do that for a total of five times. So we have 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, we'll chain two, skip two, and now we will continue with double crochet across and you should have 14 double crochets at the end here, which will match the 14 we worked at the beginning of the row. There you have your row two. I will chain two, turn our work, and double crochet into those first 14 stitches. And we'll always be double crocheting into those first and last 14 stitches. So we have our 14 double crochets. Now we will do three double crochets in the chain two space. We'll chain two and skip these three double crochets and work three double crochet in that next chain space. And you will continue to do that until you have those 14 double crochets remaining. Chain two, skip three. Work three. So a neat trick that I use when I'm working on my tee is to make sure that I have my 14 stitches on either end, is that I place some markers so I am clear where those 14 stitches are that I need to work only in double crochet and not the lace pattern. So something you can do is place stitch markers, and we're all done with these markers so we can just remove them and just place a marker in that 14th stitch. And when we work this last one. So after we've worked our three double crochet here, this stitch become our first double crochet for our 14 double crochet at the end. So mark that stitch and just continue, and this will give you some bumpers so you know exactly where to start and stop when you're working the lace pattern. So continue across. Those 14 stitches. We'll chain two. Turn and we'll work another row of the lace pattern. There were 14 double crochets here. And just move this marker up after you've worked that row. So we want to make sure our count is correct. So let's count our 14 stitches, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13. It's this one. That's 14. Place our marker

there. And now we have the beginning of our lace pattern. So we see a three double crochet cluster here. We want to chain two and skip that cluster of double crochets and work three double crochets in that chain space. All right, we'll do it again, chain two, skip that grouping of three double crochet and work three into the next space. Skip those and work that space there. The important part to having the marker here, because sometimes these three can be confused as part of the 14 double crochet. So just remember that, you know, the marker is where we want to start our 14, and we want to skip these three with a chain two. And then we'll work into this mark stitch across for 14 double crochets. And it never hurts to double check your numbers. So give that a quick count. 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14. And there you can already see the pattern taking shape. Repeat rows three and four until the body matches 10 inches the same as the back. So let's measure to see about if we're on point and we're at about 10 inches. So we will finish up this row and start our sleeve increases. And the increases work similar to the back. Chain two, turn our work. And we'll work two double crochets in that first stitch. Continue working the pattern all the way across maintaining your lace pattern. And when you get to the last stitch, work two double crochets. So here we have, it was 14 stitches before, but we just did an increase. So now we have 15 stitches on this first end. Remember we have a three double crochet cluster here, so we will chain two and skip those and then work three double crochets in the next chain space and continue like that all the way across. And that's what I love about this pattern is very intuitive. You just have to sort of remember what to skip and what to work into. There's our last three double crochet clusters, we'll chain two, and then we'll work into our 14 double crochets making that last one, a two double crochet. Here we are at the last one, and we'll work two double crochets. And place a stitch marker at the bottom of that stitch on both sides. And this will mark our sleeves. So continue working in pattern until your sleeve measures the same as it did for your back piece. Now we're at the point where our sleeve measures the same as the back, we'll start on the ribbing. So again, we'll use our smaller hook. We will chain 11. We'll turn our work and just like we did before for the back, we'll single crochet across these 10 chains. Slip stitch into that first body stitch and the next, turn your work. We'll skip these two slip stitches that we worked into the body and work into the single crochet into the back of that stitch and work across those 10 stitches. And just like we did for the back, you'll work all the way across the top of your tee working into the double crochets and the chain stitches as well. So continue working your rib across into each double crochet and into each of our chains all the way across. We're at the last row of our ribbing at the neck line. We'll go into that last stitch, slip that stitch and fasten off. Just break your yarn and pull through. Now for our optional sleeve treatment, take your larger hook, grab some yarn, rejoin at the top of your neck line with a slip stitch and chain two. And just evenly double crochet down to where you have your marker, mark in your sleeve. And this row is the same as we did for the back for the sleeves where we start with the larger hook for the first row, and then transitioned to the smaller hook for the final row. Do one more double crochet here, switch our hook to our smaller hook, turn our work, chain two and double crochet across. And again, this just gives your sleeves a nice finished edge. And here we are at the last double crochet. I'll just break our yarn and fasten off. And once you've done that for your second sleeve, here's your top. Here's your front panel all done.

#### Block and assemble the top

- Here we are with our finished pieces, our back piece and our front piece, all complete. Block these like we did for the swatch and let them dry. Each piece, our back and our front, there are no obvious right or wrong side, so just take a look to see which side of each piece you like better. If you don't

care or if they both look equally good to you, just pick them up and have your right sides together. And we will seam from the underarm down for the side, and then you will determine the width of your neck line and start seaming from the end of your shoulder to wherever you determine your neck line will be and then stop. And then again, from the other end, seam to where you'd like your neck line to be and stop. So you'll have this beautiful open end for your neck. And again, that measurement is customizable. You can make it be a wide shoulder tee, or you can make it more enclosed. You decide. So let's place our pieces together. And for a long seam like the side, you can also take out your stitch markers and place them to hold your pieces because as you're seaming, your pieces will shift. So this will help to keep them in place a little bit for you. And we'll do that on the opposite side when we get there. And there are many ways you can seam your garment. You can use your tapestry needle and work mattress stitch or some other stitch. I like to use my trusty crochet hook, and I'm using my smallest hook. And I'm gonna start at the underarm. I'll insert my hook through both thickness of the fabric, join my yarn with a slip stitch. And I'll be doing a single crochet all the way to the hemline. So a single crochet through both thickness of your fabric. And just take your time when you're doing this part because the finishing can make or break your garment. We wanna make sure it looks nice and neat and your stitches are evenly spaced. And don't work your stitches too tight. We want it to have a nice drape to your fabric. You don't want your seam to pucker in any way. We're at our stitch marker. Remove that and just continue to your next stitch marker. Okay, and here we are with our first side seam complete. Just do the same for the other side. Now we have both sides seamed up. Now let's move on to the neck line. And again, this is completely customizable to your style. We're doing a boat neck style. So we will seam to about this point. But try on your tee and see what works best for your style. Again, we'll work through both thickness, insert our hook, hook a slip stitch, and just single crochet across to the marker. And we'll work our last stitch right where our marker was. Break our yarn. Pull through to fasten off. And there's our first shoulder. We'll do the same for the second shoulder. There it is, both shoulders seamed. We are almost done. The last bit we have left to do is to weave in our ends, but we are so close. Regular tapestry needle, thread our needle with our tail, and I just go through those single crochet stitches through one loop that we made for our seam. Go across for a few of those single crochet, and then just go back in the opposite direction. And then we'll just snip that off. But I like to weave in all my ends and then come back and snip off all my ends when I'm done. For a loose end, or for a tail that's on an open end like your sleeve, you can, again, weave it back through your piece, going in one direction for a few stitches, then turn around and go the opposite direction. And just snip that when you're done. And you would do that for all your tails. Once you've weaved in all your ends and trimmed all your tails, you'll be ready to wear your finished tee. As you can see, it's a simple design with a stunning effect.