

Crocheted Rose Leaves

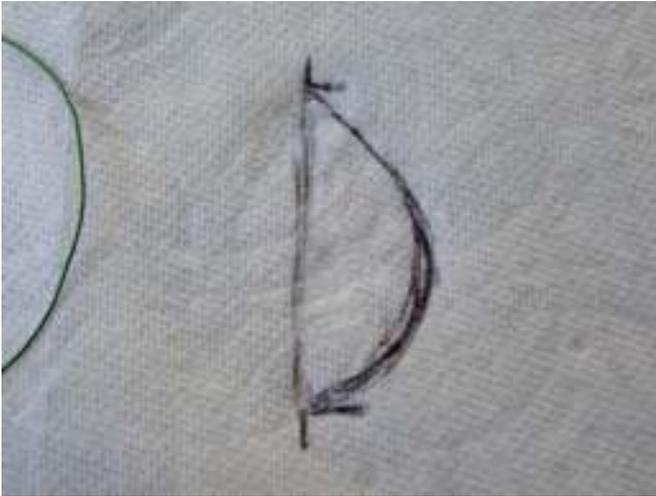
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This is just a guide to my technique

It is not a row for row pattern.



First, pick a real rose leaf . Make a pattern.



Notice it has two colors, the back side is lighter than the top. Notice also that on a single rose bush the leaves vary in size.. They are in groups of 3 or 5.

Determine the size you want . Draw an outline and measure it from bottom to tip. Use that as a guide for your beginning chain. Even though you will be making a diamond shape to form the tip of the leaf, the very fact of crocheting over two wires is going to take up space, so make sure you don't cheat on the length.

Here I have drawn one half of my leaf, as I am going to make it one side at a time.

Cut you wire long enough to fold in half and allow at least a couple of inches more to work with.. Fold the wire in half, **do not twist**.



Press it together gently working your way to the top. Keep it as flat as you can, leaving a hole at the fold large enough to insert the hook you are using.

Make you foundation chain. (FC) For this example I used size 20 thread and 1.00 hook.

As this was a small rose leaf, I chained 22. Twenty one stitches for base and one for the peak of the leaf.

Starting in the middle of the wire, sc 21sts. Next, pull beginning tail through the loop. Insert the hook into st 22 and through the loop and sc. SC 4 more times in the 22nd stitch.

Next, slip st down the FC, 4 sts. Ch 1, turn.

Making the Diamond

Begin row in next st; sc, hdc, [dc, htr, dc] in next st (this is one st before peak); in peak wk, 2 hdc, in 3rd st, work hdc, dc, ch 1, sc in loop of dc post; work 2 hdc in next 2 sts. In 1st st below peak wk [], as before, then wk 1 hdc, -sc, and slip st. Diamond is complete. See at left.





Row #1 - Cont: sc in next 2 sts of FC. Turn. YO, pick up loop in 2nd st from hook,(3 loops on hook). Insert hook in space below slipped st, work htr.

***This beginning sequence is used every time I begin a row at the FC (foundation chain).**

Next, work 2 htr in next st. Work one more htr, then begin tapered closure for the row.

To work a closed tapered ending, yo, pick up loop in post of previous htr (3 loops on hook); insert hook into next st, and work as dc, leaving last loop on hook. Yo, insert hook into next st, work sc, leaving loop on hook. Lastly, pick up loop through next st, yo, and pull through 2. Repeat until all loops on hook are crocheted.

*** This creates a solid smooth edge.**

#2- Next chain 4, turn. Pick up 2 loops, evenly spaced, in chain 4. Pick up loop in hole at base of chain, work these loops as you would a Tr.

Yo, pick up one loop in just made tr, and insert hook into next st, working a htr in that st. Work htr across until you have reached the space (st) between the inc of the previous row, and the beginning htr(there will be a noticeable bend at that point). Work 2 htr in sts, then work one more htr in the space right next to the FC.

***Once this st is completed, turn you work so that the FC lies horizontal, then yo and work sc in next sc of FC, (2 loops remain on hook), insert hook into next sc of FC, yo and pull thread through all loops on hook.**

****This attaches the row to the FC. I repeat this every time I need to attach a row to the FC.**

****This photo show me picking up one loop in chain, then one loop at base of chain; I will then yo and work TR. This move keeps your end sts smooth and snug, with no gaps. You can do this anywhere you have that issue.**



#2 cont - Sc down the FC for 3 sts.(See photo at left). Turn.

#3- YO, pick up loop in 2nd st from hook,(3 loops on hook). Insert hook in next sc, work htr. Work 2 htr's in next st. Work htr's to last st. In last st, work closed tr.

***Yo, pickup loop in post of last htr. Insert hook in next st.(Last st), Work tr. Ch 4 turn.**

#4- *Check your outline for shape. If you need to still expand the width, then work a closed tr in the 1st st.



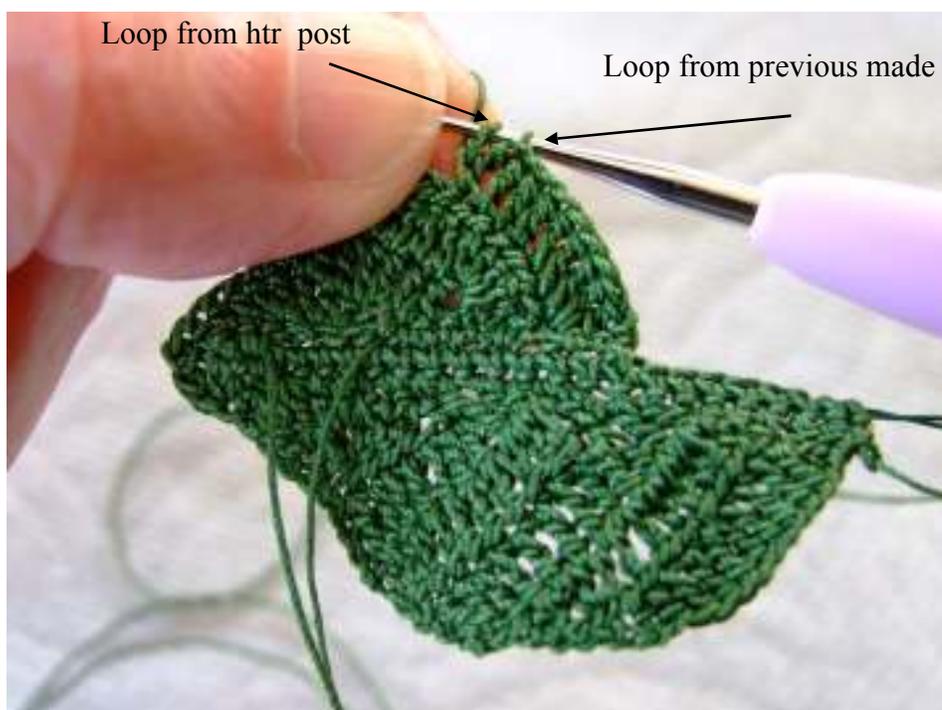
#5- Check the shape of your leaf half.

When you HTR's reach the point that intersects with the outline of your pattern, you should begin to work the tapered closure, as you did in the first row after the diamond was finished. Row #1.



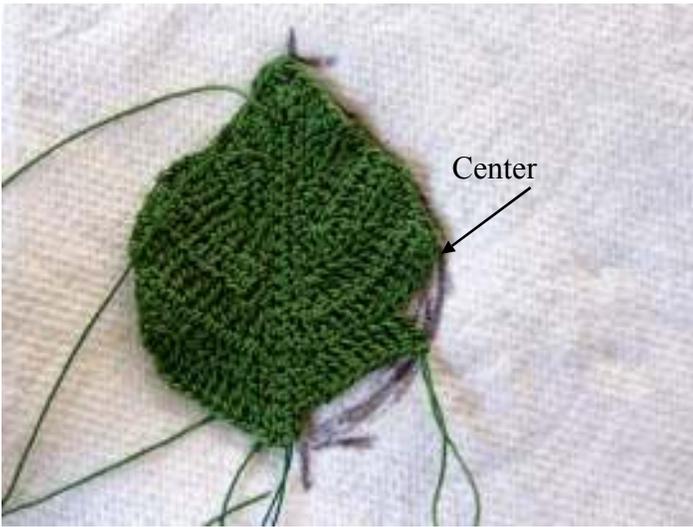
Once done, then check your progress, and see if it matches your outline.

*The number of rows needed will depend on the size of your leaf or outline. But the process is the same.



The photo at left shows me picking up the loop in the previous post before I start my tapered end.

Also make sure that you keep the loop of the st before snug.



The first three rows of the leaf after the diamond is finished, are the rows that determine the width of the leaf shape. Once this point is reached you will be reversing the shaping on the outside edge to bend the rose leaf back to the base.

The next outside edge is straightened. To do this, ch 2, pick up lp in base of chain and dc, leaving chain lp and dc lp on hook. Next pick up loop in next st, and work all three loops as TR. Finish row with H tr's as est.

This sequence of sts, makes a very gradual bend.



Rows beginning at the outside edge are decreased

Next- the next outside stitch sequence for the last rows at bottom of leaf, begins with Ch 1, pick up loops in next 2 sts, work as hdc. Next work dc, then htr. Work 2 more htr's, then inc with 2 htr's in next st (you can also work 3 in one, if you want more of a bend), complete row only this time do not work inc in second st from the end of the row. Attach as est, and slip st in FC.



This photo show one half of the leaf completed.

You will notice that I finished the row on the outside edge.

This is made by beginning the row as est, working an inc about the middle, then work a descending rise, to the outside edge.

Exp- htr, dc, hdc, slip st. I always add an extra slip st to smooth out the edge.



Rose leaves are two tones. The bottom side is lighter than the top.



To make this happen, I use acrylic paint and a damp sponge.





I also pain the vein in the middle of the top side (dark side) of the leaf the lighter color.

I use a short, firm tipped brush. Note the picture to the left.



To paint the vein I fold the leaf down on each side of the wire, exposing only the center. The leaf is ready to paint.

Use light strokes, and just the tip of the brush, being careful to wipe off any excess before starting.



The photo at the left shows the results.



Once my leaves are made I attach the lighter shade of thread to the back, and then use a tatting technique, (Josephine Knot or for us knitter's - a reverse loop cast on) to cover the wire. I work at least an inch down from the center leaf, then lay in the other two one at a time.

Each side leaf has at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of thread covered wire, so that you have at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch over lap when attaching to main stem.

You want to add your side leaves starting at half inch mark. Make at least 4 wraps of back loops before adding the next leaf.

