

The design uses a central magic ring, layered lace arches, textured lobes, decorative picot edging, and a long stem to create a realistic maple leaf appearance.

Skill Level

Intermediate

Beginners can absolutely complete this project if they work slowly and carefully through each round.

Finished Size

Approximately 10–14 inches wide depending on yarn choice and tension.

Materials Needed

- Cotton crochet thread size 10 OR lightweight cotton yarn
- Crochet hook:
 - 1.75 mm–2.25 mm for thread
 - 3.0 mm–3.5 mm for lightweight yarn
- Scissors
- Yarn needle
- Blocking pins
- Blocking mat or towel

Crochet Abbreviations (US Terms)

- ch = chain
- sl st = slip stitch
- sc = single crochet
- hdc = half double crochet
- dc = double crochet
- tr = treble crochet
- inc = increase
- st = stitch
- sp = space
- rep = repeat
- picot = ch 3, sl st into first chain
- cluster = multiple stitches worked together

Important Notes Before You Begin ✨

- The leaf is built outward from a central magic ring.
- Each lobe grows separately but connects naturally to neighboring sections.
- The outer edges use decorative picots and cluster points.
- Keep your tension relaxed so the lace opens beautifully.
- Blocking at the end is essential.

Step 1: Create the Central Magic Ring

1. Make a magic ring.
2. Ch 3 (counts as first dc).
3. Work 15 dc into the ring.
4. Pull ring tight.
5. Join with sl st to top of beginning ch-3.

You should now have a small circular center.

Step 2: Build the Foundation Arches

1. Ch 5.
2. Skip 1 stitch.
3. Sc into next stitch.
4. Repeat around entire circle.
5. Join with sl st.

You should now have evenly spaced chain arches radiating from the center.

Step 3: Form the First Layer of Leaf Veins

Inside each chain arch:

- Work 1 sc
- Ch 4
- Work 1 dc
- Ch 4
- Work 1 sc

Repeat in every arch around.

This creates the first delicate framework that begins shaping the leaf.

Step 4: Shape the Main Maple Leaf Sections

The leaf contains:

- One top center lobe
- Two upper side lobes
- Two lower side lobes
- One bottom center point above the stem

You will now begin increasing height and width in selected arches.

In the arches that form the center top section:

- Work tr stitches instead of dc stitches.
- Add extra chains between stitches.

Example:

- sc, ch 5, tr, ch 5, tr, ch 5, sc

This creates the taller central maple point.

Step 5: Create the Lower Side Lobes

For each side lobe:

1. Sl st into nearest chain space.
2. Ch 4.
3. Work 2 dc.
4. Ch 3.
5. Work 2 dc.
6. Ch 4.
7. Sc into next space.

Repeat gradually outward to build the wide maple silhouette.

Step 6: Add Interior Veins

The chart shows decorative interior vein lines.

To create them:

1. Attach yarn at center.
2. Ch 12–18 depending on lobe size.
3. Sl st lightly into lobe tip.
4. Return with sl sts or sc.

Repeat for each major lobe vein.

These lines should remain delicate and slightly loose.

Step 7: Expand the Lace Structure

Continue building outward with alternating:

- chain spaces
- dc groups
- tr stitches
- sc anchor stitches

Typical repeat:

- ch 5, dc, ch 5, dc, ch 5, sc

At wider sections:

- ch 6, tr, ch 6, tr, ch 6

The outer shape should naturally resemble a maple leaf.

Step 8: Form the Outer Lobe Points

The chart specifically highlights rounds where pointed lobes are formed.

At each outer point work:

- sc
- hdc
- 3 dc cluster
- hdc
- sc

This combination creates sharp decorative maple points.

Repeat at:

- upper side tips
- lower side tips
- center top point

Step 9: Build the Tall Center Point

The top center point is the tallest section.

Work the following into the center arch:

1. sc
2. hdc
3. dc
4. tr
5. ch 3
6. tr
7. dc
8. hdc
9. sc

Then:

- Ch 5
- Sc into side space

This creates the dramatic pointed crown of the maple leaf.

Step 10: Decorative Cluster Round ✨

Around the entire leaf edge work:

- hdc
- ch 2
- 3 dc cluster
- ch 2
- sc

Repeat smoothly around all lobes.

At sharp points:

- add an extra ch 3 between clusters

This gives the lace more texture and definition.

Step 11: Picot Edge Border

The chart includes picot edging between rounds 20–24.

Work around the entire edge:

1. sc in next stitch
2. ch 3
3. sl st in first ch (picot made)
4. skip 1 stitch
5. sc in next stitch

Repeat around entire leaf.

At major points:

- work 2 picots close together

This creates the elegant decorative edging.

Step 12: Reinforce the Maple Points

To sharpen the leaf shape:

At each point:

1. sl st to point tip
2. ch 2
3. work 1 hdc
4. ch 2
5. sl st back into same point

Repeat for all major leaf points.

Step 13: Create the Stem

Attach yarn at bottom center.

1. Ch 35–50 depending on desired stem length.
2. Starting in second chain from hook:
 - sc across
3. Ch 1 and turn.
4. Work another row of sc.
5. Optional: add a third row with dc in center for thicker stem.

Attach stem securely to leaf base with sl sts.

Step 14: Final Edge Cleanup

Inspect the entire edge.

If any area curls:

- add one extra chain in nearby arches.

If any area feels loose:

- use fewer chains.

Consistency matters more than exact stitch count.

Step 15: Fasten Off

1. Cut yarn leaving 6 inches.
2. Pull tail through final loop.
3. Tighten gently.
4. Weave in all ends with yarn needle.

Step 16: Blocking the Leaf

Blocking is extremely important for lace crochet.

1. Wet the leaf lightly.
2. Place on blocking mat.
3. Stretch each lobe carefully.
4. Pin every point.
5. Open all lace arches.
6. Allow to dry completely.

This step transforms the project dramatically.

Helpful Tension Tips

- Loose tension creates elegant lace.
- Tight stitches make shaping difficult.
- Keep chain arches flexible.
- Do not pull picots too tightly.

Beginner Troubleshooting

My leaf curls inward

Add extra chains in large arches.

My points are rounded

Use taller stitches like tr instead of dc.

My lace looks uneven

Block more aggressively.

My stem twists

Use tighter sc stitches in stem rows.

Color Ideas

Traditional maple leaf:

- red
- burgundy
- orange
- golden yellow

Elegant lace version:

- ivory
- cream
- white
- metallic gold

Autumn gradient:

- dark red center
- orange sides
- yellow tips

Ways to Use Your Crochet Maple Leaf

- Table centerpiece
- Wall decoration

- Fall garland
- Thanksgiving decor
- Window hanging
- Appliqué
- Gift topper
- Framed lace art

Complete Stitch Flow Summary

Center:

- magic ring
- dc foundation

Middle structure:

- chain arches
- dc/tr veins
- expanding lobes

Outer shaping:

- cluster points
- hdc shaping
- tr crown point

Border:

- picot edging
- reinforced points

Finish:

- stem
- blocking

Final Thoughts

Take your time and enjoy the process. Lace crochet becomes easier as the structure grows. Even if your stitch counts vary slightly, the organic maple leaf shape will still look beautiful.

The most important parts are:

- maintaining symmetry
- shaping the points carefully
- blocking thoroughly at the end