

:: Happypotamus ::

the happy hippo

A Heidi Bears Design Pattern © Heidi Bears 2013

Please note that I have permission from the designers of this African Flower Crochet Hexagon to design patterns using the African Flower Hexagon motif, and to sell these patterns.

You are welcome to sell any finished Happypotami, made by yourself. Please respect the pattern itself, including instructions, words, photographs, diagrams and the actual construction of the hippo, and do not copy, post or distribute in any way, electronic or other that will infringe my right as the author and creator of this pattern. Please do not use the idea and actual hippo pattern to modify and/or alter in any way to create or design and sell derivative patterns, including the use of a different hexagonal / polygonal motif to make a hippo like Happypotamus. Thank you for respecting the hard work that has gone into designing this pattern. I hope you will love making your own Happypotamus ☺



Happypotamus is the second of my patterns that makes use of the African Flower hexagon crochet motif and variations thereof, joined in a specific order to make a recognizable 3D toy. I love this African Flower pattern and the creative possibilities of using it to make 3D items ☺ Happy is made using four different African Flower motifs: Hexagon, Pentagon, Heptagon and Octagon. It's also an excellent stash buster project, as you only need to use very small amounts of leftover sock yarn to make a motif.

So, let's take a look at the important points and how you will start to make your own happy Happypotamus ☺

:: Steps to making your own Happypotamus ::

1. Read the whole pattern through properly, so you have a good overview.
2. Make sure you know how to crochet the African Flower hexagon crochet motif. I have included both written and charted instructions for the African Flower hexagon in this pattern. If you are a visual learner, you can see a step by step photo tutorial on my blog:
<http://heidibearscreative.blogspot.com/2010/05/african-flower-hexagon-crochet-tutorial.html>
3. Make sure you are able to crochet the different variations of the African Flower motif, including how to make an African Flower Pentagon, Heptagon and Octagon... for clarity: the pentagon has five petals and five sides, the heptagon has seven petals and seven sides and the octagon has eight petals and eight sides. The difference is simply the number of "petal" repeats that you crochet...each variation is therefore equally easy to crochet. I have included written and charted instructions in this pattern on how to crochet each of these African Flower motif variations. I have also posted a fully explained tutorial on how to crochet an African Flower pentagon, on my blog, which can be found here:
<http://heidibearscreative.blogspot.com/2011/09/african-flower-pentagon-tutorial.html>
4. Make sure you have gone through and practiced the join-as-you-go technique. This has been explained and illustrated in the PDF named Appendix : Joining Tutorials. Since the joining method is really very important to the success of the project, I strongly suggest that you practice joining on scrap yarn motifs before starting the project. If you would prefer to sew your motifs together, you won't need to practice the join-as-you-go technique, but will need to be confident in your neat sewing ability. I have not included instructions on how to sew stuff together...there are plenty resources available on the internet...
5. Either choose your yarn for this project or use the sock yarn that you have left over from other projects. Make all the required motifs for Happy **BUT only up to Round 4 of the African Flower motif if you are doing a join-as-you-go method**, or the full motif up to Round 5 if you are sewing up the motifs.

:: Materials Requirements ::

The Happypotamus that has been crocheted for this pattern, was made using sock weight/fingering/#1 weight yarn. Using this weight yarn will give you a Happypotamus measuring approximately 37cm measured nose to tail, and approximately 17cm high at the shoulder.

ALL THE CROCHET STITCHES USED IN THIS PATTERN ARE BASED ON AMERICAN CROCHET TERMS

Abbreviations: sc = single crochet dc = double crochet

Sock weight / Fingering weight yarn/ #1 in colors of your choice... this little hippo is a great stash busting project as you can use small amounts of sock yarn for each motif, and the more colourful the happier 😊 I used random colors, keeping only to the cream colored yarn for Round 5 of each motif. Although I can't tell you how much yardage of each color I used, I can tell you that the total weight of yarn for the whole hippo was around 130g (unstuffed).

The yardage for the sock yarn I used is around 320m/100g (350yds/100g). It is a superwash merino yarn, but you can use any alternative fingering weight yarn you like...I suggest that animal fibre yarns would be preferable, as they have more stretch, making the stuffing and shaping of the hippo easier.

Crochet Hook 2.0mm

Polyester toy stuffing

Hippo Eyes (plastic safety eyes or glass looped eyes). **PLEASE NOTE THAT ATTACHED EYES ARE NOT RECOMMENDED FOR TOYS CREATED FOR CHILDREN!** They can be a suffocation hazard. If you are making this hippo for a child, rather embroider the eyes using embroidery thread! I would still suggest sculpting the eye sockets before embroidering the eyes...it adds a lovely realistic element 😊 I have used 10mm wire looped glass eyes. These can easily be sourced from sellers on eBay.

Embroidery Thread

Scissors

Long sewing needle (doll making needles work well)

Tapestry Needle used for sewing in ends

Patience and Determination!

:: Skills Requirements ::

Basic Crocheting Skills: Chain stitch (ch) , Single Crochet (sc), Double Crochet (dc), Slip Stitch (sl st) joining a chain to make a ring, joining in a new color yarn.

Join-as-you-go motif joining: This pattern will require that you join the crocheted motifs each stitch to each stitch. This is necessary to prevent the stuffing popping out of the toy. It is imperative that you are confident in your join-as-you-go ability. The method I use is explained in the Appendix pages found at the end of the pattern. These tutorials are illustrated by using actual motif chart illustrations with explanatory notes. This cuts down on printing 😊

However, if you are scared witless by the thought of doing a join-as-you-go joining method, all is not lost...you can simply make all your motifs in full (including Round 5), then sew them together. The order of motif placement and the number of sides needing to be joined stays exactly the same whether you join-as-you-go or sew up.

Basic sewing skills: You will be sewing the ears to the head using spare yarn and a tapestry needle.

:: General Tips ::

There are a few tips that you will want to know, to make your life easier, when making Happypotamus.

I strongly recommend that you work through the Joining Tutorial...because Happy is stuffed, you will need to join the African Flower motifs, **stitch to stitch**, so that the stuffing doesn't pop out. Although this is really easy once you get the hang of it, if you aren't careful in having the correct stitch number etc, you will have a nightmare joining motifs, and more than likely give up in despair! I want you to be a happy Happypotamus creator, so please take the time to be a joining superstar!

If you prefer, you can make the motifs as required for each body part, and sew up the motifs with yarn and needle instead.

TIP 1: ROUND 4: When you crochet Round 4 of the African Flower Hexagon, ie the round of sc's on the outer edge of the flower petals, (in the photos on page 6, the apricot colored sc's), make sure that you end up with SEVEN sc's between the long dc stitches. In order for you to easily join the motifs, each stitch to each stitch, you will have to have the correct number of outer sc's separated by long dc's.

TIP 2: ROUND 5: When you crochet Round 5 of the African Flower motif (in the photos on pg 6, seen as the outermost round in cream colored yarn...), make sure that you have NINE dc's separated by the chain stitches as shown. **NOTE that dc number 9 of a "9dc repeat", and dc number 1 of the next along "9dc repeat" (of round 5), are made into THE SAME sc space below of round 4. This point is what I have arbitrarily called the APEX of the flower petal.**

TIP 3: JOINING-AS-YOU-GO PROCESS: When you join a motif to another, the motif you are joining **TO**, will **ALWAYS** have all its Rounds completed, ie Round 5 will always have been crocheted. The motif you are joining (ie the one you are **ADDING/JOINING** to the other), will only have been crocheted up to Round 4. The join-as-you-go process creates Round 5 of this motif. So when you see an instruction like "Join a hexagon on three sides", it means that you need to take a hexagon that has been crocheted only up to Round 4, and crochet Round 5 as you join to the other motifs.

TIP 4: JOINING-AS-YOU-GO: If you find the joining-as-you-go too difficult, then make up the completed motifs for each body part and sew them together using spare yarn and a tapestry needle.

TIP 5: 9dc REPEAT: When you are joining sides of motifs to each other, you will essentially be matching petal apex to petal apex (that is why you need to be sure that you have 9 dc between each petal apex...ie matching and joining 9dc's to 9dc's on the joined sides). Where I have indicated the sides of motifs to be joined, I am using colored lines to show which sides correspond to each other. Remember that the **lines will run from petal apex to petal apex** (sometimes it is hard to illustrate exactly the beginning and end of the side to be joined, because the crocheted work tends to naturally curl, so the photos can be a bit distorted...)

TIP 6: ALWAYS WORK WITH THE RIGHT SIDE FACING YOU: I have photographed the work from the **RIGHT SIDE**, up to the point where it has become impractical to keep the work flat for photographing...because you are creating a 3D shaped body and head, your work will curl up naturally after adding several motifs. The motifs are **ALWAYS** added with the right sides facing you, and the "bottom" end of Happy facing **AWAY** from you (once you have made the "bottom" 😊). If you look down at the work when starting to add a new motif, you will be crocheting in an **ANTICLOCKWISE** direction, starting the joining round at the point indicated in some of the photographs/illustrations by a pink arrow/dot. If you have worked through the joining tutorial, you will have a clearer understanding of this tip.

TIP 7: CROCHET HOOK QUALITY: I strongly recommend that you use good quality crochet hooks. Your hooks **MUST** have good deep throats, or you might struggle with crocheting the smaller motifs. As Happy is a stuffed animal, the motif stitch density has to be tight, to prevent the stuffing popping out. Unfortunately this means that your crochet will be quite tight, and if your hooks don't have good throats, you will struggle to pull the yarn through motif stitches.

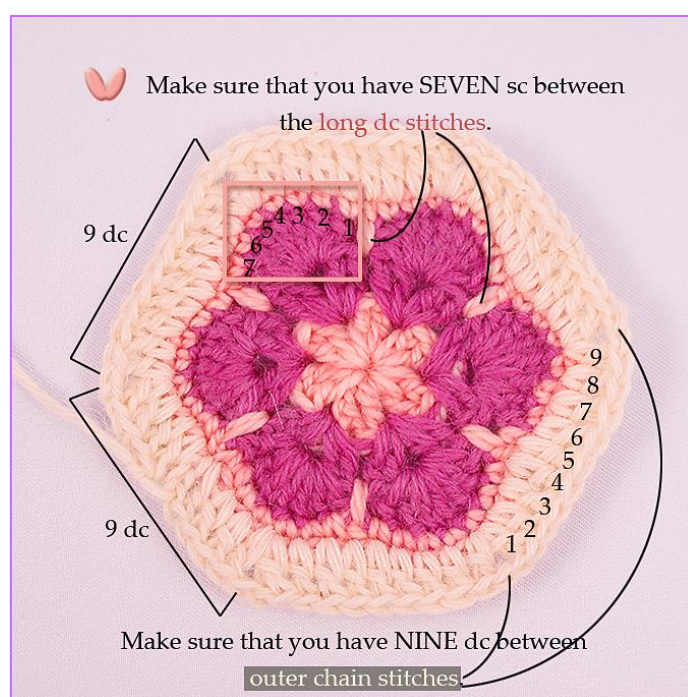
TIP 8: MOTIF SIZE: The exact size of each motif is not as important as that your tension should be the same over time as you crochet. Remember, the yarn and hook stay the same, the only variable for motif size is your tension.

TIP 9: COLOR VARIATIONS : I have made Happypotamus in a variety of colors, but the sky is the limit...choose your own color combinations, the making process remains the same 😊

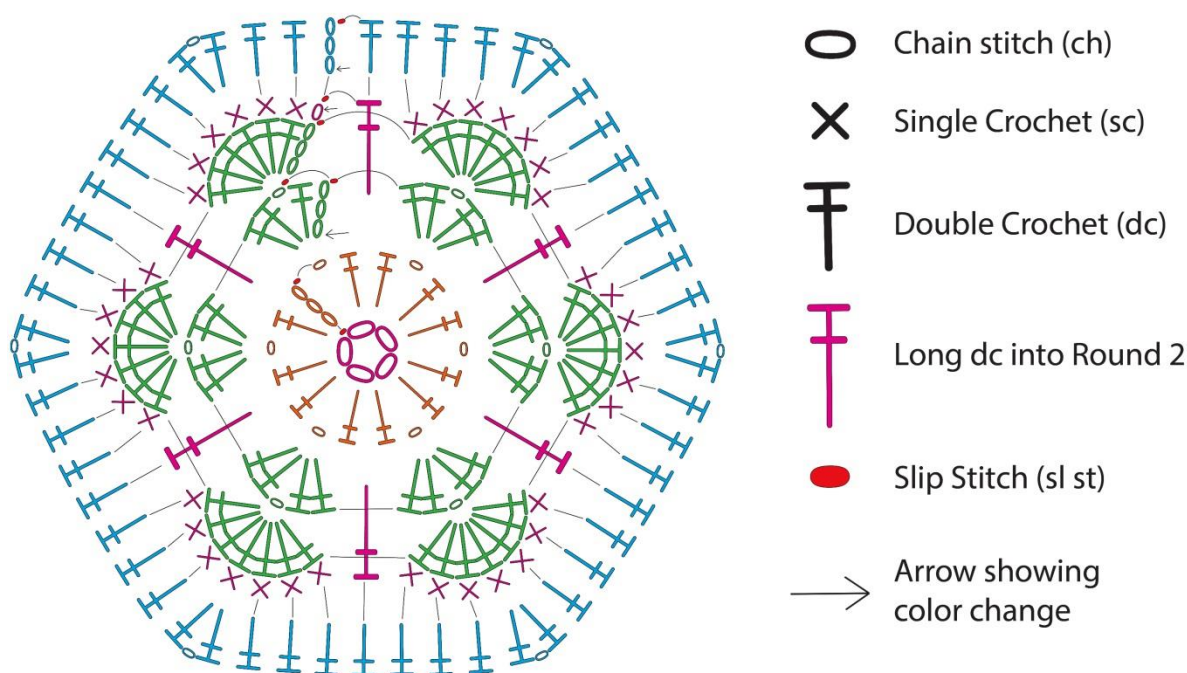
TIP 10: STUFFING: In some of the photos I have stuffed Happy partly, mostly to show the motifs more clearly for reference purposes...this does not mean you need to stuff your hippo as well...only stuff the body and head when the pattern instructs you to do so...☺

TIP 11: ORIENTATION: When I talk of Happypotamus' left and right or left and right hand sides, I use the terms as anatomically correct, ie if you are facing Happy's bottom, all motifs on the right hand side are "Right side" motifs, and all motifs on the left side are "Left side" motifs.

Please take a good look at the following photos for reference, they will save you a lot of frogging!



African Flower Hexagon Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 1 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 2 dc in ring, ch1 *. Repeat from * to * 4 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (6 sets of 2dc's separated by chain stitches).

Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 4 chain spaces. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (6 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same colour. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 4 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (6 sets of 7 dc's).

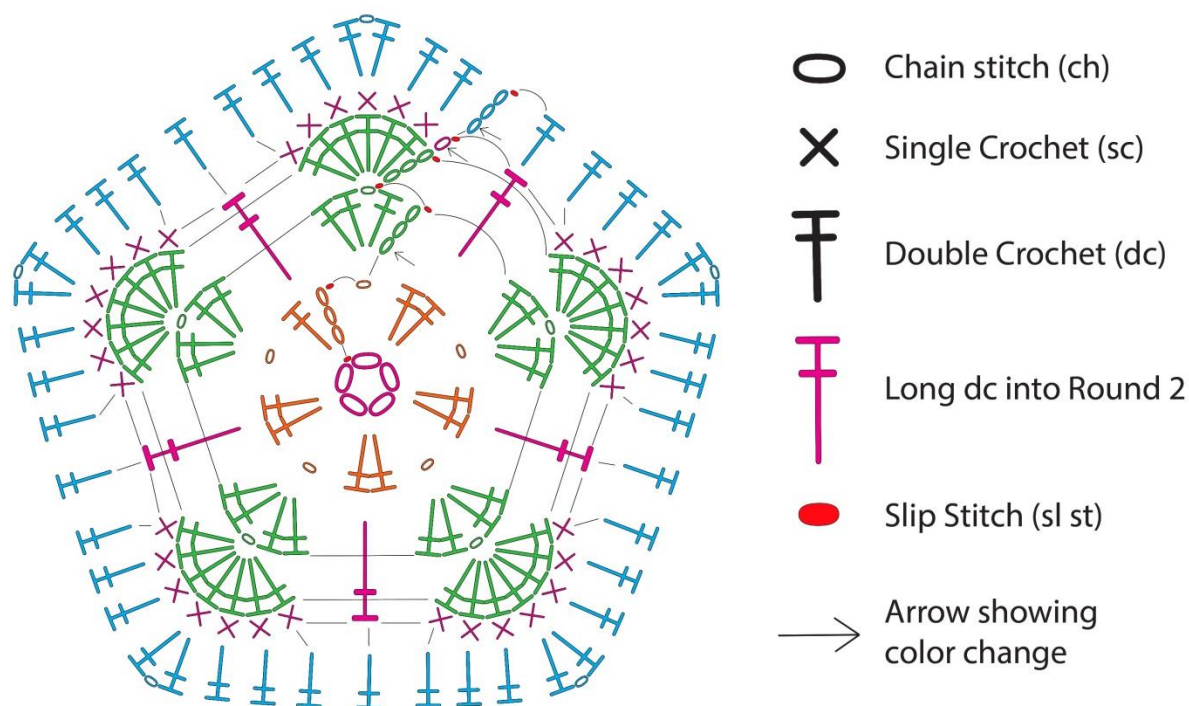
Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * four more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (42 sc and 6 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.

* Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * four more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round.

Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 54 dc in all).

African Flower Pentagon Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 1 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 2 dc in ring, ch1 *. Repeat from * to * 3 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (5 sets of 2dc's separated by chain stitches).

Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 3 chain spaces. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (5 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same color. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 3 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3". Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (5 sets of 7 dc's).

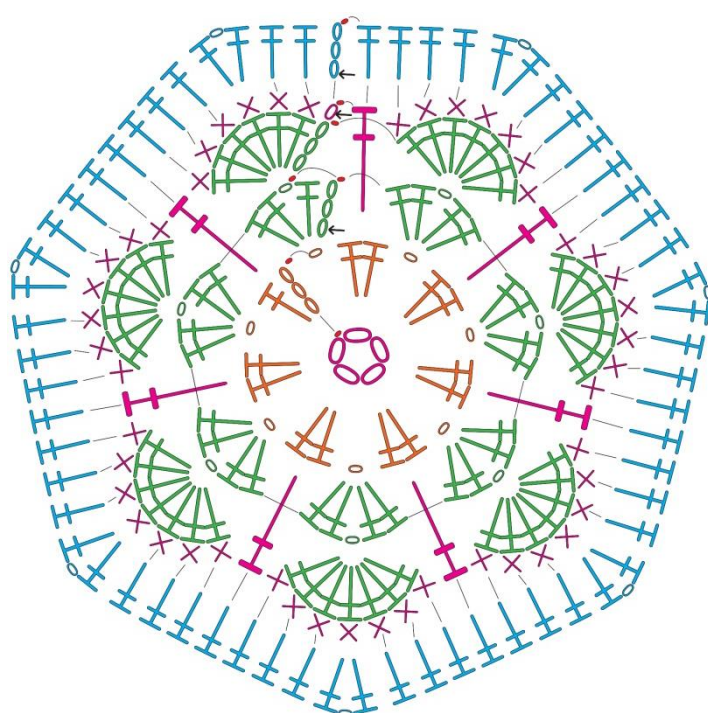
Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * three more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (35 sc and 5 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.

* Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * three more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round.

Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 45 dc in all).

African Flower Heptagon Crochet Motif Instructions



- Chain stitch (ch)
- × Single Crochet (sc)
- T Double Crochet (dc)
- T Long dc into Round 2
- Slip Stitch (sl st)
- Arrow showing color change

Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 1 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 2 dc in ring, ch1 *. Repeat from * to * 5 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (7 sets of 2dc's separated by chain stitches).

Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 5 chain spaces. Join with a slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (7 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same colour. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 5 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (7 sets of 7 dc's).

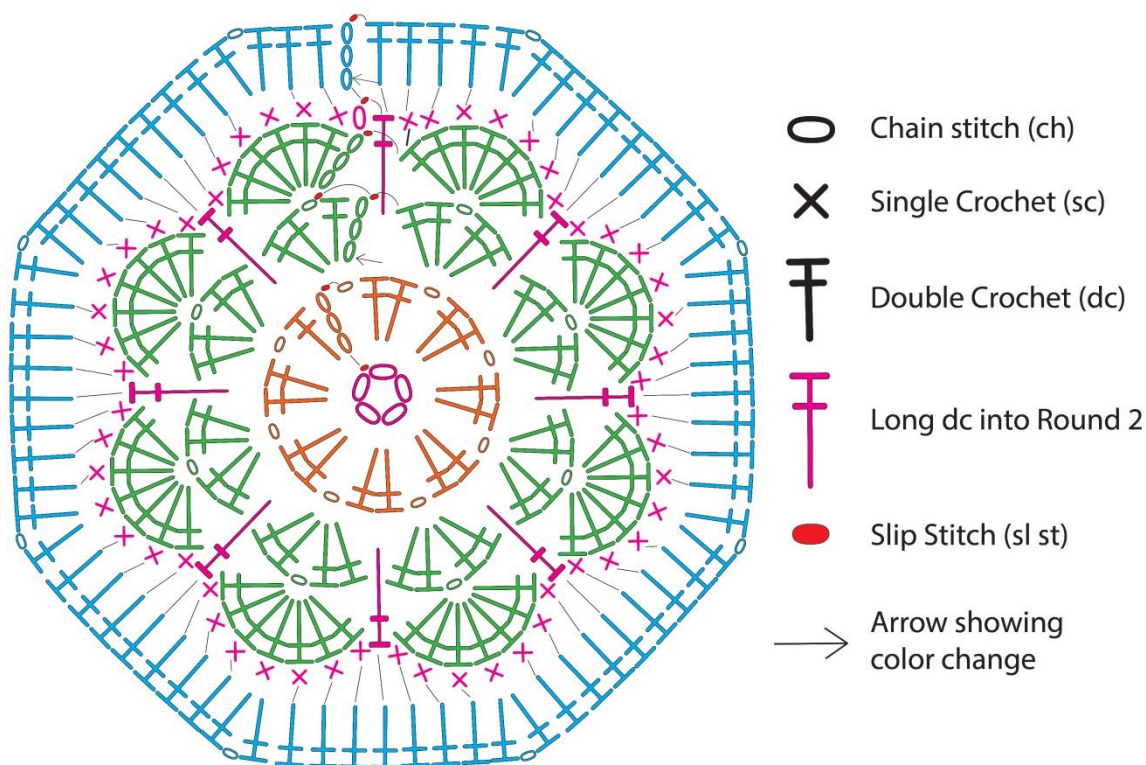
Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * five more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (49 sc and 7 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.

* Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * five more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round.

Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 63 dc in all).

African Flower Octagon Crochet Motif Instructions



Round 1: Ch5 and join with slip stitch to form a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), 1 dc in ring, ch1. Then, make * 2 dc in ring, ch1 *. Repeat from * to * 6 times more, slip stitch join to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (8 sets of 2dc's separated by chain stitches).

Round 2: Join next color in the ch1 space (just to the right of the previous round's ch3 beginning) and ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc in that same chain space then ch1. Make 2 dc (still in the same chain space). Move on to the next chain space of the previous round, and make the following: 2 dc, ch1, 2dc in that chain space. Repeat this in each of the next 6 chain spaces. Join with slip stitch to third chain of beginning "ch3" of the round. (8 clusters of [2dc,ch,2dc])

Round 3: Continue with the same colour. Slip stitch into the chain space in the middle of the first cluster of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 6 dc in same chain space (total of 7 dc's). Make 7 dc's into the chain space of the next cluster. Repeat 6 more times, so that each cluster has 7 dc's in its chain space. Join with slip stitch to the third chain of the beginning "ch3" of the round. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (8 sets of 7 dc's).

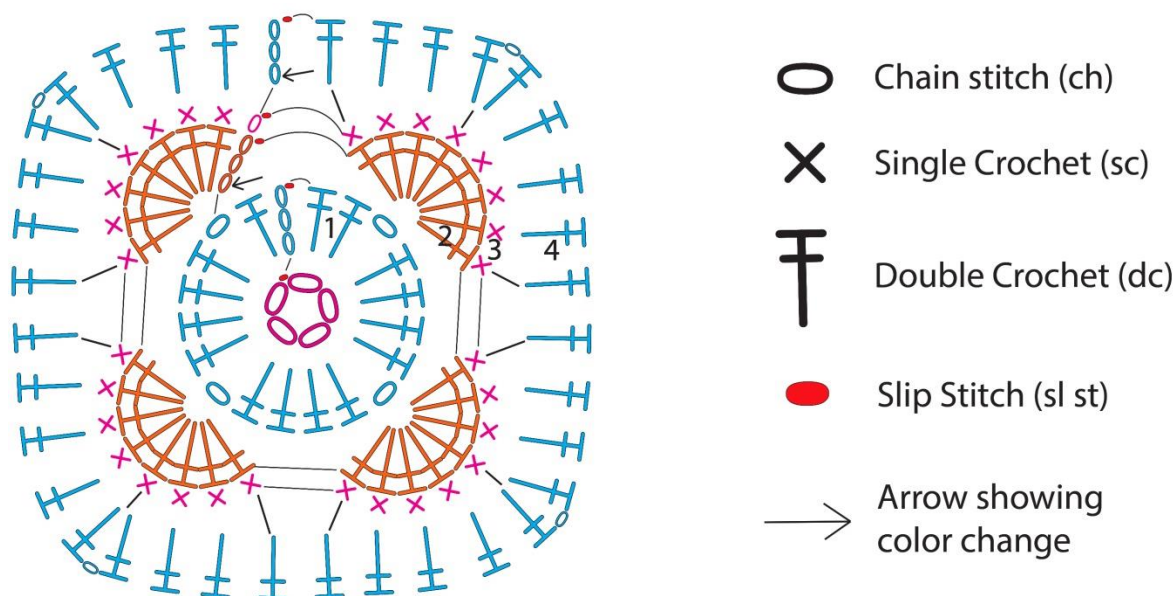
Round 4: Join new colour in the slip stitch of previous round's end, and ch1 (counts as a sc). Make one sc into each of the dc's of the cluster (this makes 7 sc including the ch1). Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Sc into each of the 7 dc stitches of the next cluster. Make one long dc (between clusters) that extends down into round 2 of the flower, so that it separates the round 2 clusters. * Repeat from * to * six more times. Slip stitch to the beginning of the round "ch1" stitch. Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (56 sc and 8 long dc)

Round 5: Join next colour to the slip stitch at the end of the previous round. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make one dc into each of the next 2 sc's, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the flower petal). Then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's "long dc" stitch.

* Make one dc into each of the next petal's first three sc stitches, then (dc, ch1, dc) into the next sc (this forms the "apex" of the petal), then make one dc into each of the next three sc. Make one dc into the previous round's long dc stitch. * Repeat from * to * six more times. Slip stitch to the third chain of the "ch3" of the beginning of the round.

Cut yarn and pull through, leaving a tail. (You should have nine "dc" stitches between each petal apex, separated by a chain stitch, so 72 dc's in all).

Happypotamus Nose Patch Motif Crochet Chart



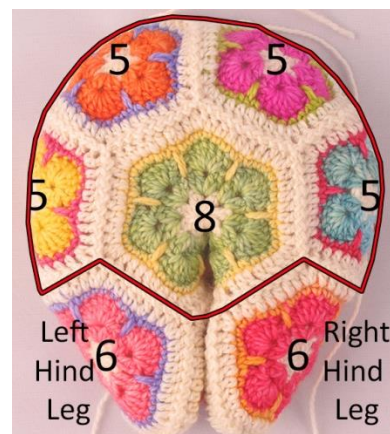
Round 1: Ch5 and join with a slip stitch to make a ring. Ch3 (counts as first dc), then make 1dc into the ring, ch1. Make * 4 dc into ring, ch1. * Repeat from * to * twice more. Make 2 dc into ring and join with a slip stitch to the third chain of the “ch3” of the beginning of the round. (4 sets of 4dc’s separated by chain stitches)

Round 2: If you choose, you can join a new color yarn. Ch3 into a chain space of Round 1. If you choose not to change colors, first slip stitch into the next along chain space, then Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make 7 dc into this same chain space. Make 8dc’s into each of the three remaining chain spaces of Round 1. Join with a slip stitch to the third chain of the “Ch3” beginning of Round 1. (4 clusters of 8 dc’s)

Round 3: Join a new color if you wish. Ch1 into the slip stitch of the previous round. Sc into each of the seven dc’s of this cluster. Sc into each of the 8 dc’s of the next cluster. Repeat for the remaining two clusters. Join with a slip stitch to the ch1 at the beginning of the round. (4 sets of 8 sc’s)

Round 4: Join a new color yarn to the slip stitch of round 3. Ch3 (counts as first dc). Make a dc into each of the next four sc stitches. Ch1, then * make a dc into the same sc space as the previous dc. Make a dc into each of the next eight sc’s from Round 3. Ch1. * Repeat from * to * two times more. Make a dc into the same sc space as the previous dc. Make a dc into each of the next three sc stitches of Round 3. Join with a slip stitch to the third chain of the “ch3” at the beginning of the round. (4 sets of 9 dc’s separated by 4 chain stitches, ie four “9dc repeats”)

:: Overview of Happypotamus' Construction ::



Happypotamus is made from the tail end with progressive rounds of motifs being added, working towards the nose end. First the body and legs are made, then the head. The body is composed of four rounds of motifs, one belly motif, plus the two hind legs and two front legs. The hind legs are made before starting Round 1. In the photos above, the motifs outlined in red are those making up Round 1. This includes the “bum” octagon. Round 2 is outlined by purple. Round 3 is outlined by green. Round 4 is outlined by yellow. Another octagon makes up the “belly” of the hippo. The black numbers indicate which motifs are hexagons (6), which are pentagons (5), heptagons (7), and octagons (8). This may seem

obvious, 😊, but not all the flower petals are always visible in the photo, depending on the angle, so for clarity sake I added them in. I also purposely made all the motifs in different colors, so that you have a visual reference for which motifs lie next to which.

:: Motif Requirements for Happypotamus ::

Body and all legs : Octagons x 2, Heptagons x 2,
Hexagons x 9, Pentagons x 15

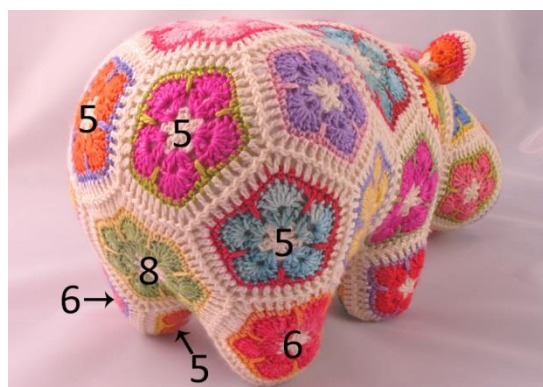
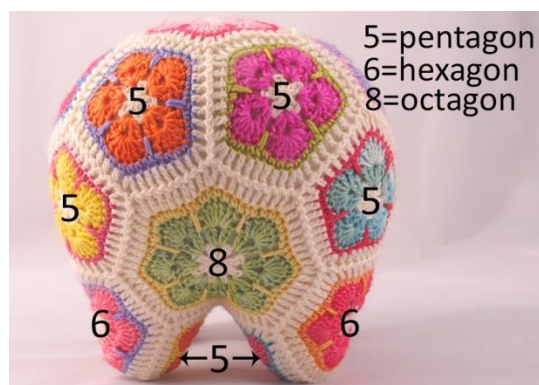
Neck: Pentagons x 4

Head: Hexagons x 1, Pentagons x 7, Nose Patch x 2

Ears: Hexagons x 2

TOTAL: Octagons x 2, Heptagons x 2, Hexagons x 12,
Pentagons x 26, Nose Patch x 2

= 44 motifs



Reference Views for Step 1

You will start making your hippo from the bottom area and work towards the nose. First you will make the two hind legs, then add the central bottom/bum octagon, then add four pentagons in a semi-circle around the octagon (Round 1), extending from one hind leg to the other. Each hind leg is made from a hexagon and a pentagon, the hexagon being the outward facing motif and the pentagon the inward facing motif.



Step 1: Hind legs

Use one hexagon and one pentagon for each hind leg. **Complete crocheting Round 5 of each pentagon.** Now join a hexagon to a pentagon (for each leg) on **three sides, by crocheting Round 5 of the hexagon, and joining-as-you-go**. This will leave the hexagon with 3 “free” edges and the pentagon with two “free” edges. Each hind leg will be like a little “pocket”, with the motif’s wrong sides facing. The hind legs should look like the photo above on the right.



Squeeze open both hind leg pockets, and place them on your work surface so that the pentagons are facing towards each other. Place the bum octagon in the middle above both hind legs.

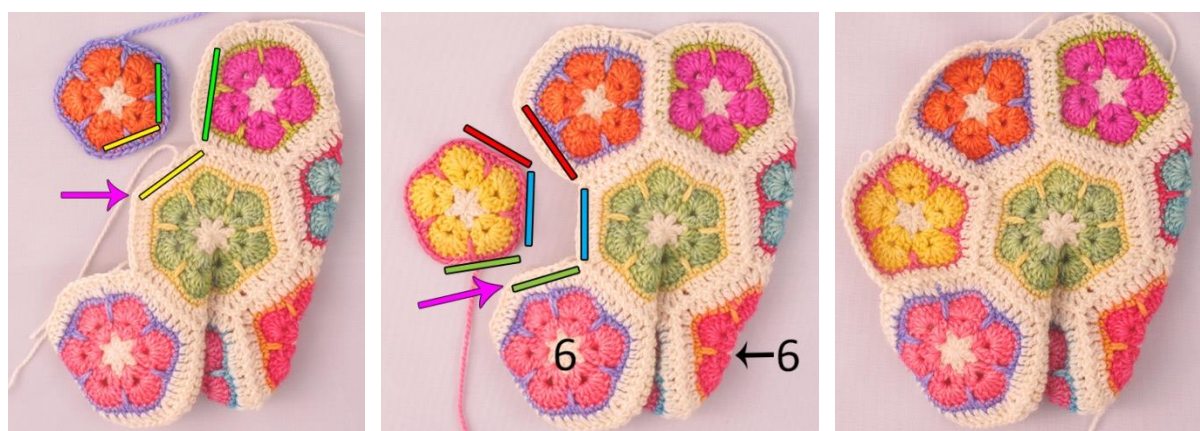


Ok, here we go...join the bum octagon on four sides to the hind legs, each hind leg being connected to the octagon on two sides, as shown above left. The pink arrow indicates the starting point for the joining process. The colored lines show corresponding joining sides. Once the four sides are joined, your work should look like the photo above right.

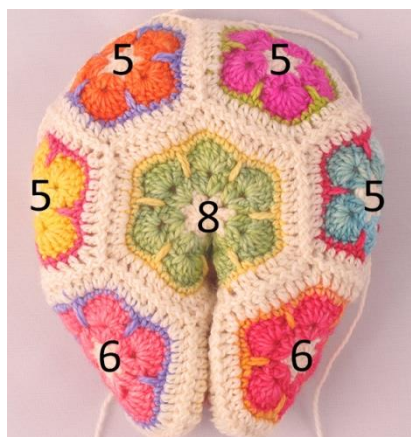


Step 3: Joining the pentagons to the Bum Octagon

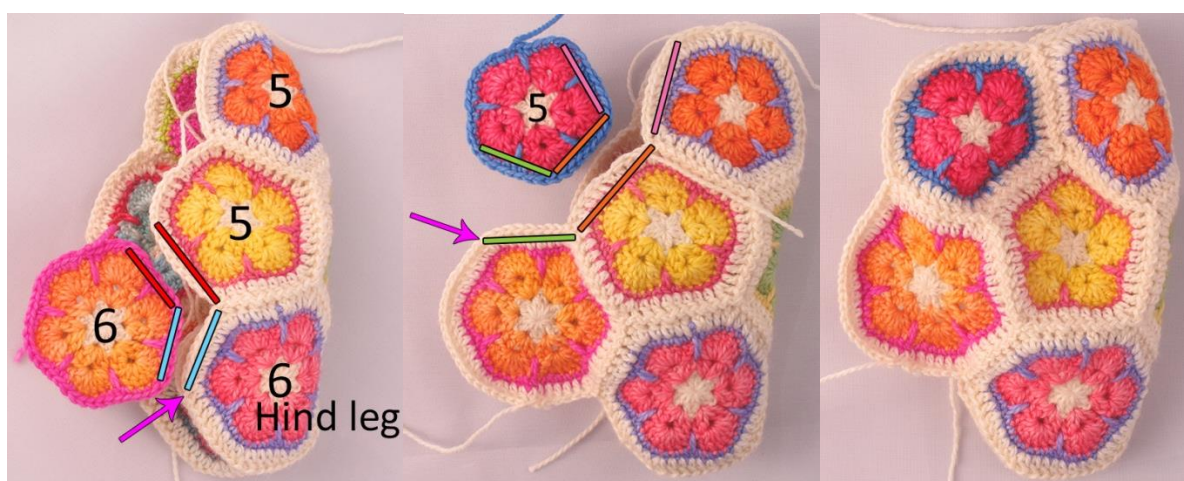
When you pinch the hind legs together, the octagon folds away from you. Above (middle), the work is squashed a bit to show the correct placement of the next pentagon (red/blue) to be joined. Join this pentagon on one side to the octagon and on one side to the hind leg hexagon. The pink arrow indicates the starting point for joining. Above right, it has been joined and your work should look like this. The next pentagon (purple/green) will be joined in exactly the same way, on two sides... one side to the octagon and one side to the previously joined pentagon.



Repeat the same joining process for the next pentagon (orange/purple). Join the next pentagon (yellow/pink), on **three sides**, one side to the previously joined pentagon, one side to the octagon and the 3rd side to the hind leg hexagon, **starting** at the hind leg hexagon.



Step 3 done! Your Happypotamus bottom will start to curl into a (well-) rounded shape ;) ... The next steps will involve joining the Round 2 motifs to the “rump” area of the hippo. First we will work on one side of the “rump” and add a hexagon and then a pentagon, then repeat this on the other side of the “rump”. The last motif to add in this round is a hexagon, which fits perfectly into the space between the two added pentagons...it all works out ☺ In order to show these steps, I needed to squash the work a little...if you are unsure, just look at the motif colors and the petal count, and you’ll be able to orient yourself...



Step 4: Joining Round 2 motifs to the rump area

Start by working on the left side of the rump (Remember Tip 11!). The first motif you need to join is a hexagon, and you will join it on two sides, one side to the hind leg hexagon (pink/purple), and the other to its adjacent pentagon (yellow/pink), as shown in the photo above left. The pink arrow (as always) indicates the starting point of joining. Next you join a pentagon, but this time on three sides...one side to the previously joined hexagon, one to the remaining side of the yellow/pink pentagon, and the third side to the next along pentagon (orange/purple). Your work should look like the photo above right, when completed.



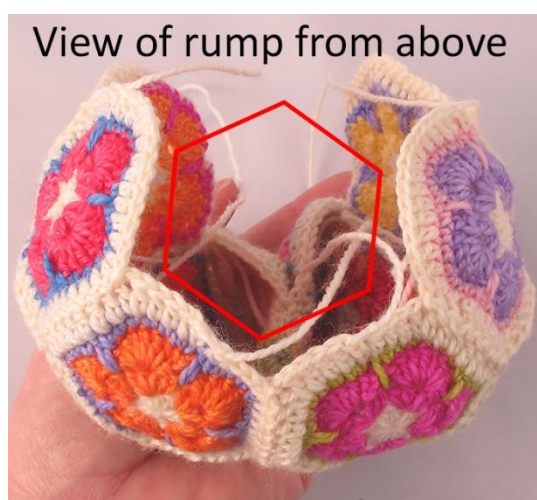
On the left is a squashed flat, unstuffed Happypotamus, showing the side you have just worked on in the previous step, a visual reference if you will, to see where the motifs you have just added fit in the overall scheme of things. Now start working on the other side of Happy’s rump ☺



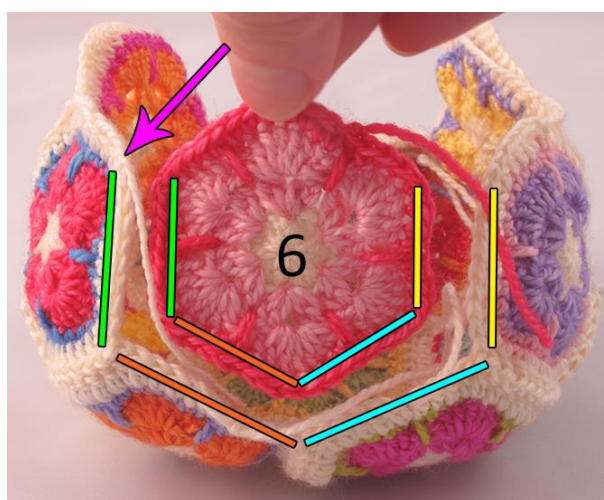
Join a hexagon, as shown above left, on two sides, as indicated. Notice that you **start** your joining on the **opposite point** from where you did in the previous set of photos...this is because you **always** have the motifs **right sides** facing you and crocheting and joining in an **anticlockwise direction**, so in this step, you start your joining at the pentagon edge and work onto the hind leg hexagon. Next, join a pentagon, this time on three sides and shown above (middle). Your work should look like the photo on the right above.



On the left is the side view of a squashed, unstuffed Happypotamus again for visual reference. You only need to add one more motif to this round of motifs in the rump area, then you have finished Happy's back end 😊



View of rump from above

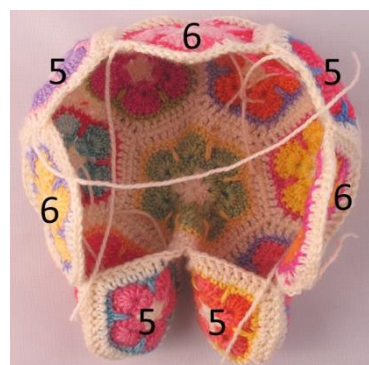


Open up your work and allow it to take on its rounded shape. Hold the legs in your left hand and look at the rump from above. There is one space left in this round of motifs...above left you can see the hexagon shape created by the space. Join in a hexagon now, on **four sides as shown**, again starting at the point indicated by the pink arrow.



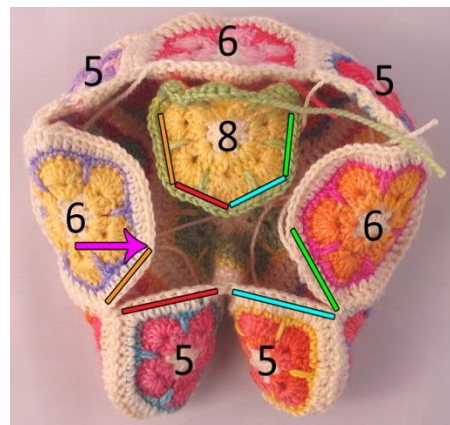
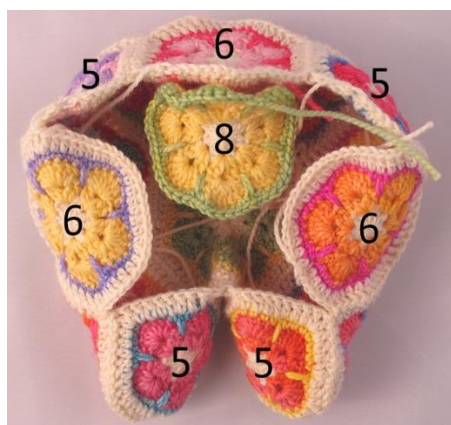
Round 2 done!

Your work should look like the photo on the left. On the right is a view towards the **inside** of Happy's body.



Step 5: Joining the belly octagon motif

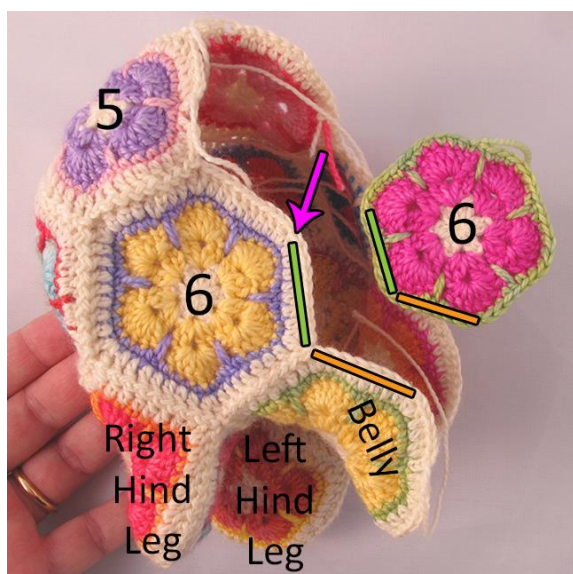
The next step is to join the belly motif, which is the second octagon you need for the pattern.



The photos above left and right are taken facing into the hippo bottom. Join the octagon (8) on **four sides**, starting at the point indicated by the pink arrow...first to the side-body hexagon of Round 2, then to the right inner hind leg, then to the left inner hind leg, and lastly to the other side-body hexagon of Round 2. The colored lines show which sides are corresponding. This will leave the octagon with four "free" sides.

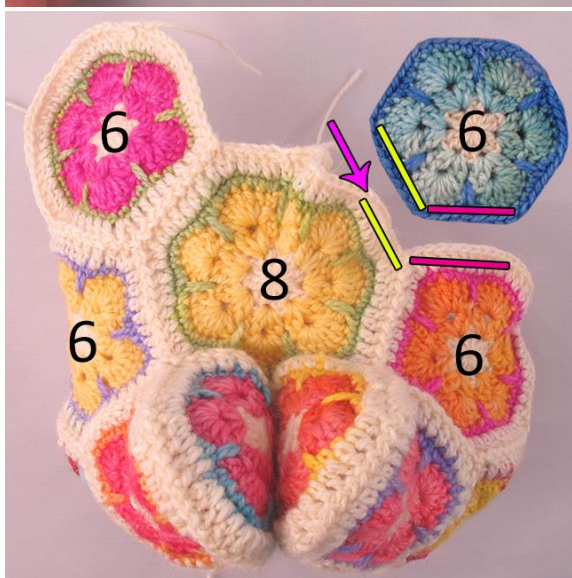
Recap:

Ok, so you've got nearly half way with the body. Well done! So far, you have a pair of hind legs, with two rounds of motifs added and the belly octagon in place. The next steps will add two more rounds of body motifs as well as the front legs. Please refer to the photos on page 12 for reference. Start with Round 3, which consists of adding two hexagons and two heptagons (7 petals).



Step 6: Join the two hexagons of Round 3

Join a hexagon on **two sides**...one to the right hand side Round 2 hexagon, and one side to the belly octagon, as shown above left. Notice that your starting point for joining is on the right side Round 2 hexagon, as shown by the pink arrow, then joining to the belly octagon. Next join a hexagon to the left side of the body, but this time your starting point will be on the belly octagon. Join this hexagon **on two sides** as well, one to the belly octagon, and the second side to the adjacent Round 2 hexagon. The photo on the left is viewed **facing** the belly.

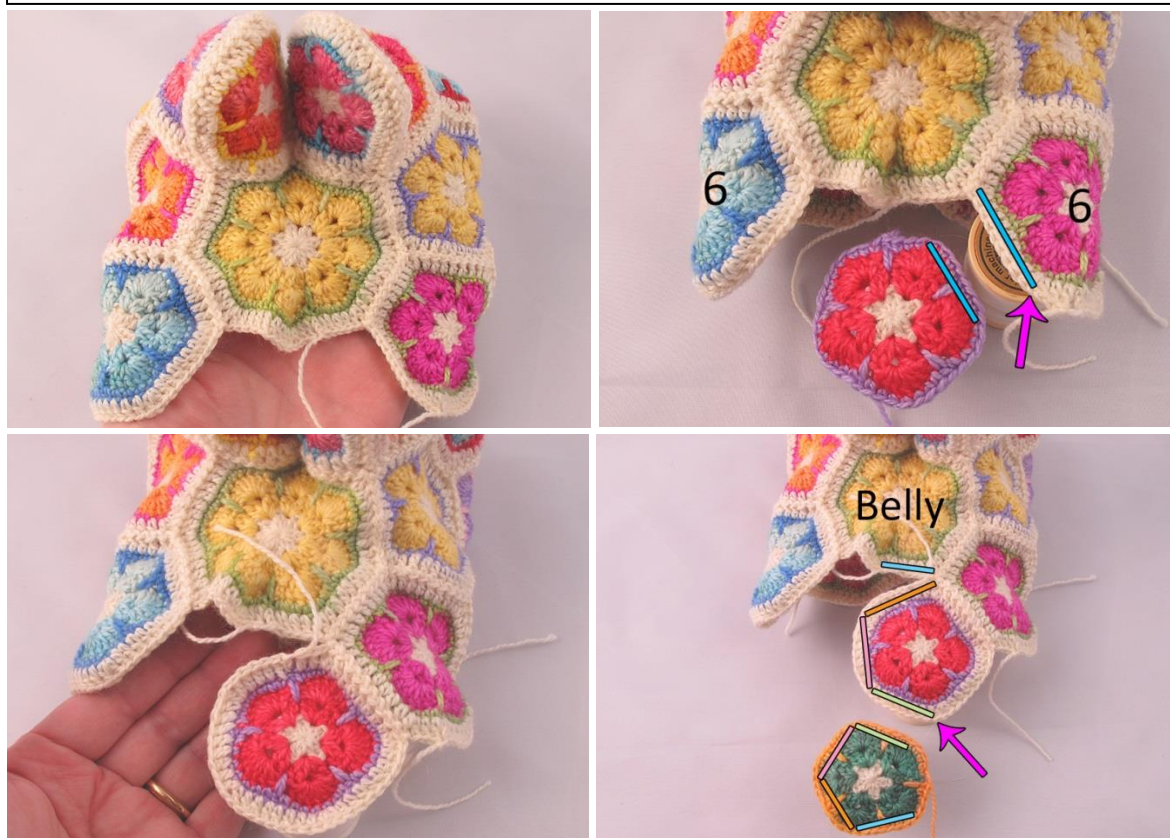


Step 7: Joining the Round 3 Heptagons

Next you will join the two heptagons of Round 3, first the one on the left side of the body, **on four sides**, starting at the Round 3 hexagon, and then joining onto the motifs of Round 2. See photo below left for this step...



Join the second heptagon of Round 3, middle photo above, this time on **FIVE sides**, starting at the pink arrow point on the previously joined heptagon, and working anti-clockwise (as usual), joining to the motifs of Round 2 and the right side hexagon of Round 3. When completed, your work should look like the photo above right.



Step 8: Joining the right and left front legs

The photo top left shows the belly view of the hippo, which will be facing you as you work the front legs. You will need two pentagons to make the **right front leg**. The first pentagon will be joined along **one side only**, to the Round 3 hexagon, (above right and below left). The second pentagon will be joined on four sides, as shown below right, first three sides being joined to the 'just-added' pentagon of the front leg, and the fourth side being joined to the belly octagon. The joining of the first three sides creates, again, the little "pocket" of the leg. When you get to the belly motif, you will need to twist your work a little to accommodate the change in angle, but just remember...the joining goes exactly in the same way as before.



The photo on the left is what your work should look like now. You have only one “free” side left on the belly octagon, which is where you will join the next pentagon for the **left front leg**.

Below left shows the placement and starting point.

Below right is what things look like now 😊



You only need to add the other pentagon of the left front leg then the front legs are done!



As with the right front leg, the second pentagon of the left leg, will be **joined on 4 sides**...three of the sides are to the other left front leg pentagon (just added previously), and the fourth is to the one side of the Round 3 hexagon. As always, start the joining process at the point indicated by the pink arrow. As you join, you will form the left front leg “pocket”, so your work will curl and you may need to adjust your crocheting angle a bit...the joining process remains the same however! Continue joining the fourth side to the Round 3 hexagon (blue) as shown in the following photos.





Well done! Your Happy has front legs and soon will be able to frolick about! On the left you can see the progress overall. The front legs have two “free” edges each, and are little “pockets”, just as the hind legs are.

Only Round 4 of the body left to do, and then on to the head. ☺



Let's take a look at Round 4's motifs. There are two “chest” hexagons, and three “shoulder” pentagons. The “chest” hexagons are added first then the “shoulder” pentagons.



Step 9: Joining Round 4 motifs

Join the first chest hexagon (right side of body), on three sides, starting at the Round 3 hexagon, then join to the right front leg outer pentagon, then to the right front leg inner pentagon.



Next, join the left side of the body chest hexagon, this time on **four sides**, starting at the right chest hexagon, joining to the left inner front leg pentagon, then to the outer left front leg pentagon, and finally to the left body Round 3 Hexagon, as shown above. When you have made the join to the right chest hexagon, you will need to change angles to start joining to the left leg inner pentagon...it feels a little awkward but the joining process remains the same as always ☺



Next, join the middle shoulder pentagon of Round 4 to the space between the two Round 3 Heptagons, on **two sides**, as shown far left, starting at the pink arrow.

(The photos to the left are taken looking down on the body.)

Your work should look like the photo on the right.

Now, join the right body shoulder pentagon on **four sides**, seen below left, starting at the middle shoulder pentagon (pink arrow). Repeat for the left shoulder pentagon, but this time start joining at the left chest hexagon, seen below (right photo).



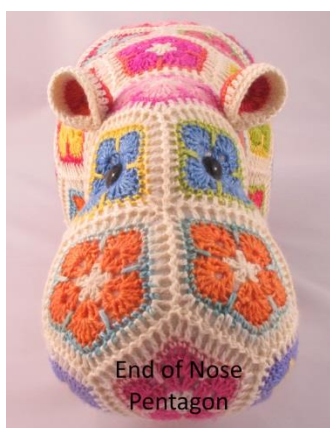
Now do a happy dance because you have finished Happypotamus' body... onto the next fun part, making Happy come alive...

:: Happypotamus Neck and Head Instructions ::

Happypotamus' **neck** will be made first. The neck "round" consists of four pentagons... a "top of neck" pentagon and two neck side pentagons and an "under-neck" pentagon.

The **head** consists of 10 motifs:

- two eye pentagons,
- two top of nose pentagons,
- two "cheek" pentagons,
- two "nostril" nose patches,
- one nose "end" pentagon
- one "under mouth" hexagon.



Joining the Neck Pentagons



Start by joining the Top of Neck pentagon on one side, as seen far left, to the middle shoulder pentagon, starting to join at the point indicated by the pink arrow.

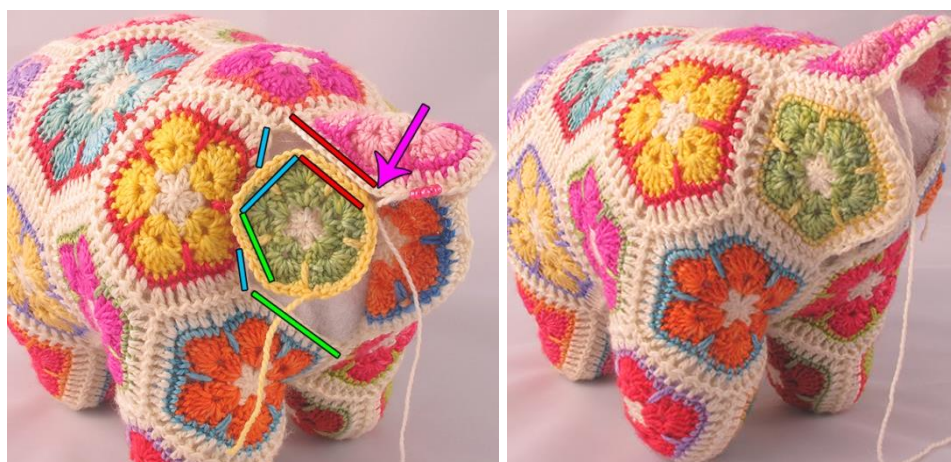
This leaves the Top of neck pentagon with four "free" sides.



Next, join the left "Side of Neck" pentagon, on three sides, starting at the "v" shaped point between the chest hexagons (pink arrow).

See photo on the far left.

Repeat for the right "Side of Neck" pentagon, again joining on three sides, but this time start joining at the "Top of neck" pentagon (pink arrow), see photo below left.



Ok, so you have joined three of the four neck pentagons. ☺ (Note that you have **not stuffed** the hippo yet...I have done so purely for photo clarity...)



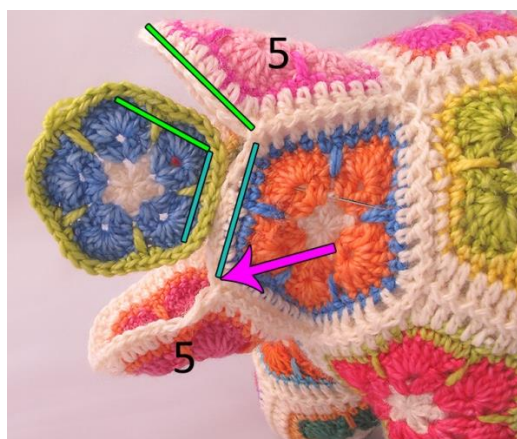
To add the last neck motif, a pentagon, you need to angle the body up a bit to see the "v" shaped opening that lies between the just added, two "side of neck" pentagons. Join the under neck pentagon to this "v" shaped area, on two sides, starting at the point shown by the pink arrow.



Yay! You have finished the neck! On the left you can see the last pentagon has been joined and you are looking “into” the neck ...on to the head making...



Joining the Head Motifs

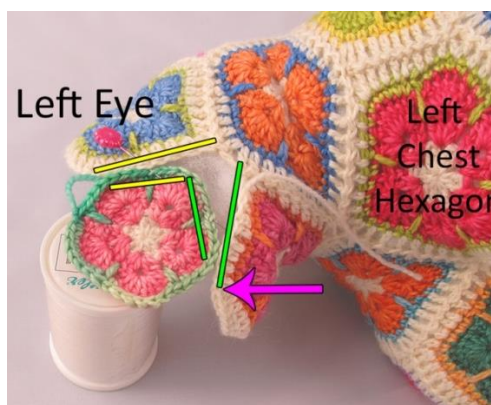


The steps needed to make the head consist of first adding the eye motifs, then the “cheeks”, then the “top of nose” motifs, then the “under mouth” hexagon, then the nose patches and finally the “end of nose” pentagon. So, let’s get started...

Join the left eye pentagon, **ONLY on two sides** as shown on the adjacent photo, one side to the left “side of neck” pentagon and the other to the “top of neck” pentagon.



Next, join the right eye pentagon, on **THREE sides**, starting at the point indicated by the pink arrow on the left eye pentagon...join to the left eye pentagon, then to the “top of neck” pentagon, then to the right “side of neck” pentagon (above left photo). In the right photo above, both eye motifs have been added. I have elected to make them the same flower color for uniformity, but you can make them, different colors if you choose ☺



The next part of the head-making involves adding in the “cheek” motifs. You need two pentagons for this, one for the left side of the head and one for the right side. Each “cheek” motif is joined to lie between the eye pentagon and the “under neck” motif. In the photos above I have angled the hippo slightly to enable a clear photo...start by joining in the left “cheek” motif, joining **on two sides**, starting at the “under neck” motif (pink arrow) and joining to the left eye pentagon for the second side. Above right is how your work should look...



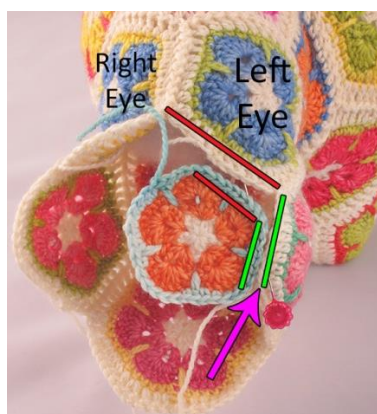
Repeat the process for the right “cheek” motif, but this time start the joining on the right eye, and join **on two sides** as shown above. You will need to add the “under mouth” hexagon next, which means you will need to turn your hippo upside down to join this hexagon.



On the left, you can see the underside of the hippo head. The two chest hexagons are visible at the top of the photo...

Join the “under mouth” hexagon on **three sides** by starting at the point indicated by the pink arrow, which is at the right “cheek” pentagon, and continuing to join along the “under mouth” pentagon, and finally along the side of the left “cheek” pentagon.

As always, the colored lines indicate the corresponding sides which need to be joined.

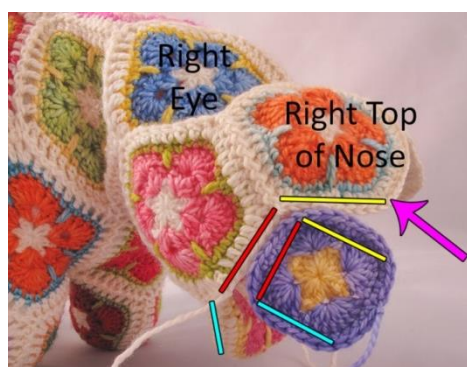


You are making good progress with your Happypotamus!

Only a few more motifs to go, and you are done ☺ You now need to join the two “Top of Nose” pentagons, starting with the left pentagon. Join this pentagon (as shown in the photo on the left) to the left “cheek” pentagon and then to the left eye pentagon (so, **on two sides**), starting your joining at the indicated point on the left “cheek” by the pink arrow.



Next, join the right “top of nose” pentagon to the head, **on three sides**, (seen left) starting at the left “top of nose” motif, then to the right eye and finally to the right “cheek” pentagon. On the right you can see the completed joining...

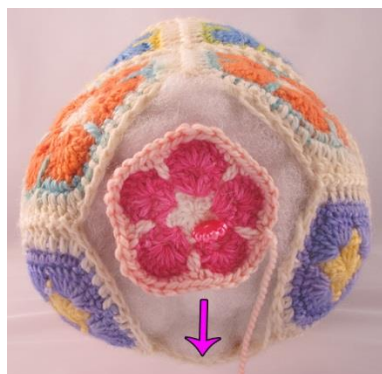


Only three motifs to go! Two nose patches and one end of nose pentagon ☺ Ok! ...join the right “nose patch” on **three sides**, starting at the right “top of nose” motif, joining on to the right “cheek” motif and thirdly to the right side of the “under mouth” motif (see above left). Your work should look like the photo on the right...



Repeat for the left side of the head...join the left nose patch **on three sides**...first to the “under mouth” motif, then to the left “cheek”, then lastly to the left “top of nose” motif. You now have a pentagon shaped space left at the end of the nose...you only need to join one more motif!

:: Stuffing Happypotamus and joining the Last Motif ::



Before joining the last head motif, you need to stuff the hippo using polyester stuffing. **Even stuffing** is very important for the final overall shape of your toy, and there is an art to it. Start with small tufts of stuffing, and stuff the hind legs first. Make sure that the legs are equally stuffed, shape and firmness being considered. Now add small tufts of stuffing to the body, again being careful to distribute the stuffing evenly between the left and right hand sides of the body. When you have reached the middle of the body, stuff the front legs. Now continue to stuff the rest of the body, always using small bits of stuffing and not big handfuls. This makes it easier to redistribute the stuffing from the outside using a double pointed needle if necessary...

Before you start to fill the head, take a good look at your Happy, and make sure that the rump, middle and shoulders are symmetrically stuffed and even when viewed from all angles. Now stuff the head, making sure that both nostrils "roundness" is equal when viewed from the front and above (see above).

Join the "End of Nose" pentagon **ON ALL SIDES** to the pentagon shaped space as seen on the left above (refer to the Appendix Joining Tutorial for instructions on joining on all sides)...however, you can also sew in this last motif if you find that easier, using spare yarn and a tapestry needle. I have found that holding my crochet hook like a "knife" rather than a "pen", makes the join-as-you-go process easier...it is a bit fiddly and difficult, so if you struggle, don't fret...rather just sew the last motif in ☺

:: Sculpting the Eye Sockets and attaching the Eyes ::

The single best bit of advice that I can give you in making this hippo, is to take the time to sculpt the eye sockets...it really is easy and quick to do and adds a realistic look to your Happypotamus' face that triples the cuteness factor!

Take a length of yarn around a meter long (around a yard) and fold in half so that the two ends are placed together. Thread these two ends into the eye of a long tapestry needle or doll making needle. Place Happypotamus between your knees to hold in place, facing the head. Insert the needle into the left eye area (Round 1 of the left eye pentagon), just to the side of the very centre. Push the

needle all the way through the head, exiting at the right eye area, just to the side of the centre of Round 1. Pull the yarn through the head, leaving a small loop at the left eye as seen below left.



Now re-insert the needle into the right eye area, on the opposite side of Round 1 from where your needle exited, and push across the head back to the left eye area, again exiting on the opposite side of where you initially inserted the needle in Round 1 of the left eye motif, putting the needle **through the yarn loop**. Pull up the yarn gently, and you will see the eye sockets indent. Don't pull too hard or the eyes will be placed too close together (unless that's the look you are going for ☺...)



Thread the needle through the wire loop of the glass eye. Re-insert the needle into the centre of the left eye motif, and push through the head to the right eye centre. Before you pull the yarn all the way through, use pointed nose pliers to pinch the wire loop narrower (this allows it to be pulled into the head more easily). Give a gentle tug on the yarn to "sink" the eye into the head.

Repeat the process for the right eye...thread the needle and yarn through the right eye wire loop, re-insert the needle into the same hole that you exited from, and again, pinch the wire loop narrower, and push the needle all the way to the left eye, exiting under the left eye, just to the side of where the wire loop sits. Give a gentle tug on the yarn and see the right eye "sink" into the head. Make a triple stitch under the left eye to anchor the yarn and snip. The eyes are done!



:: Making Happypotamus' Ears ::

Make two ears, using the pattern for the African Flower hexagon, but modify it slightly...for Round 5, just crochet one dc stitch into every stitch of Round 4, leaving out the chain stitches between the "9dc repeats", and omitting to crochet two double crochet stitches into the same space on either side of where the chain stitch would be. This makes your ear hexagon curl slightly, which is exactly what you want! When you get to the end of Round 5, DO NOT CUT YOUR YARN!

Fold the motif in half, wrong sides together, so that the working yarn lies to the very right of the folded motif, as seen below left.

Now, single crochet the edges together, making sure that you slip your hook beneath BOTH loops of each stitch on either edge of the motif.

When you get to the end, cut your yarn BUT LEAVE A LONG TAIL (you will use this to sew on the ears).



Fold the ear in half again, to form a "cup" shape, as seen on the left, and sew it to the head along the edge of the "Top of Head" pentagon, so that the front end of the ear just touches the eye pentagon. See photo on the left. Repeat for the other ear.

You can use your fingers to "shape" the little ear into a pleasing rounded shape...make Happy have cute little ears to hear with ☺

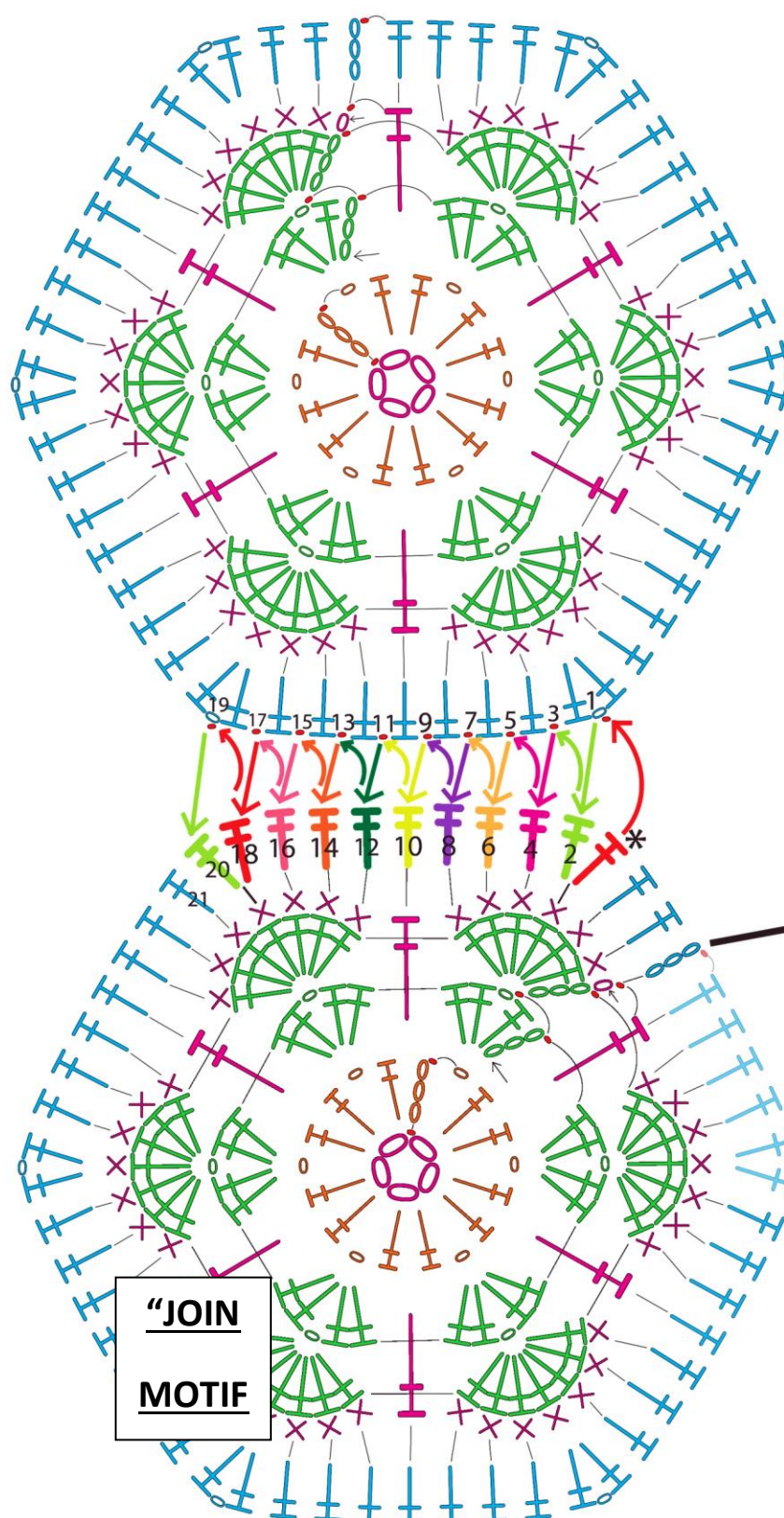
I now dear friends, your happy Happypotamus is done! Breathe a little breath into Happy, give a little hug and kiss and make him/her come to life ☺

I hope you have enjoyed making Happypotamus and that you have found the pattern clear and easy to follow...if you have any questions, please pm me on Ravelry or send me an email to heidibearscreativeblog@gmail.com and I will be happy to help ☺

Happy crocheting folks!

:: APPENDIX : JOINING TUTORIALS ::

JOINING TWO MOTIFS ON ONE SIDE

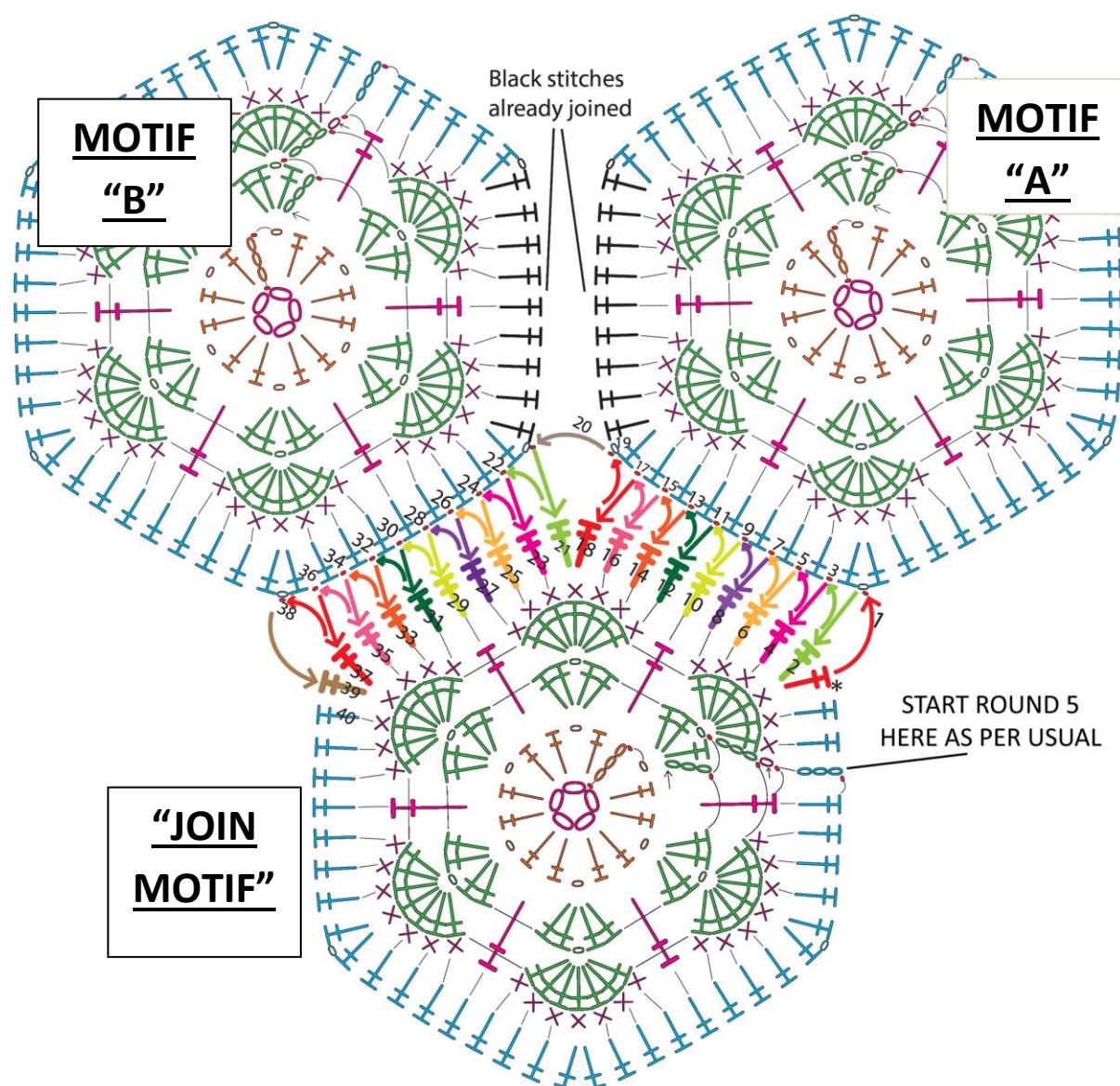


When you join a motif stitch for stitch, to another motif on one side only, you need to start crocheting Round 5 of the “join motif” at the usual point, which is where your Ch3 starts the round. Work as usual up until the first dc of the [dc,ch,dc in same space] set, and make **ONLY** the first dc of this set. This is the dc in red, with an asterisk. **DO NOT** crochet a chain stitch...instead join to the other motif’s flower apex chain space (1) using a slip stitch (shown by a red oval dot). Now crochet a dc (2, lime green) into the same space on the “join motif” as the previously made dc (red*).

START ROUND 5
HERE AS PER USUAL

Now slip stitch join to the space (3) on the opposite motif, which lies right next to where you slip stitch joined before. Make the next dc (4, pink) as you usually would on the “join motif”. Continue in this manner, alternating between slip stitch joining to the opposite motif and crocheting a stitch on the “join motif”. The numbers will guide you step wise.

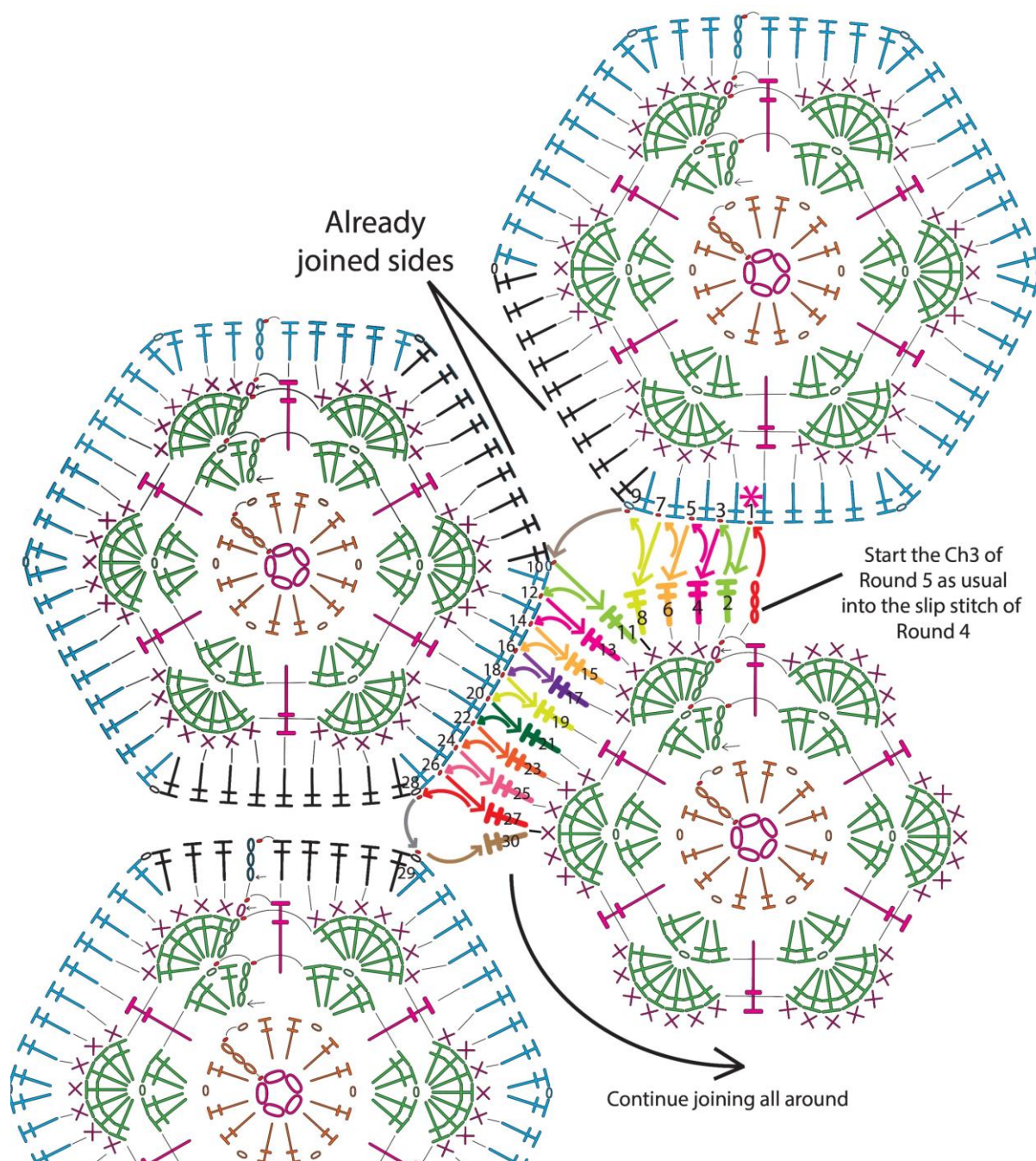
JOINING A MOTIF ON TWO OR MORE SIDES



Joining a motif to two other motifs "A" and "B" (which would already be joined to each other), involves exactly the same process as joining on one side. Proceed as per the instructions for joining on one side only, up until the point where you have made the first dc of the second set of [dc,ch,dc] of the "Join Motif", (marked 18, red). Now slip stitch join into the Motif "A" flower apex chain space (19). Next, instead of crocheting the green dc (21) on the "Join Motif", **FIRST SLIP STITCH JOIN TO THE flower apex chain space of "Motif B" (20).** **Now** you crochet the green dc (21) on the "Join Motif". This means you have joined on two slip stitch points at a multi-point intersection, making the joins strong and even. Continue as before joining on the second side (the black numbered steps will guide you).

So what do you do if you have to join a motif to 3 or even 4 sides, meaning you have 3 or 4 flower apex chain space points all together? Remember the rule...when you get to a flower apex chain space multi-point, **you slip stitch join INTO EACH OF THEM, from one to the next, to the next and so on, until you have slip stitch joined ALL OF THEM**...then you crochet the second dc of the [dc,ch,dc] set.

JOINING A MOTIF TO OTHER MOTIFS ON ALL SIDES



Joining a motif to others on all sides seems harder than it is...however, you are usually doing this kind of join when your hippo or other toy is already stuffed, making it harder to accomplish. Remember that you can sew in this last motif if this is easier for you ☺ That being said, the only thing to keep your eye out for is the correct placing of the first slip stitch join. Start the "Join Motif" Round 5 as usual, with a Ch3. Now slip stitch join this to the opposite motif, MAKING SURE IT IS JOINED AT THE SPACE JUST TO THE LEFT OF WHERE THE LONG DC OF ROUND 4 LIES. Because you are facing the right sides of motif when joining, and joining in an anti-clockwise direction (except if you are a left handed crocheter), this space will always lie to the left of the long dc stitch. In the diagram above, it is marked with a pink asterisk. A good way to check that you have placed the first

slip stitch join, is to look out for when you reach the flower apex chain space...you should have crocheted the first of the dc's that make up the [dc,ch,dc] set. So the next step would be to slip stitch join to the flower apex chain space of the opposite motif...if this is not the case, your placing of the first slip stitch join is incorrect...check again. If this is correct, then continue crocheting Round 5 of the "Join Motif" joining-as-you-go, all around.