



Dante the Donkey & Carlos the Cactus

An original crochet pattern by

Janine Holmes

www.mojimoidesign.com

Dante the Donkey & Carlos the Cactus

★Pattern Notes

Terminology

This pattern is written in American crochet terminology, which differs from British terminology in some instances. The following table of terms used in this pattern will help should you wish to translate one to the other.

American (US)		British (UK)	
ch	chain	ch	chain
Slst	slip stitch	ss	slip stitch
sc	single crochet	dc	double crochet

Abbreviations & Symbols

cm	centimeters
g	grams
invdec	invisible decrease
mm	millimeters
Rnd(s)	Round(s)
st(s)	stitch(es)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together
()	Round brackets indicate: A group of stitches to be worked into the same stitch or space, or The amount of stitches you should have on completion of the round or row it follows, or Explanatory notes within the pattern.
[]	Square brackets contain a group of stitches to be worked the amount of times indicated after the brackets
"	inches

Special Stitch Explanations:

Invdec

- This is a good way of decreasing in amigurumi when you need a tight, smooth fabric as this technique will eliminate bumps and holes in the fabric and will be almost completely invisible.

Insert hook into front loop only of first stitch, do not wrap yarn, insert hook into front loop only of next stitch. You will now have a total of three loops on your hook. Wrap your yarn around hook and pull through both of the 2 front loops on the hook, wrap yarn around hook again and pull through last 2 loops on hook. You have now 'invisibly' decreased by one stitch.

Sc2tog

- This decrease method is easier to use on rounds where you crochet into the back loops only.

Insert hook into st, wrap yarn round hook and draw up a loop. Insert hook into next st, wrap yarn round hook and draw up a second loop. You will now have 3 loops on hook. Wrap yarn round hook again and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

Loop stitch (see figs.1-6)

Loop 1

Insert hook into next sc, form loop of yarn around first finger, draw this loop out to approx. 1½" (4 cm), now draw both strands of this looped yarn through sc, wrap yarn round hook and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

Loop 2

Make 2 loops (as described above) in next single crochet.

Loop Stitch Pictures



fig.1 Insert hook into st, draw loop over finger.



fig.2 Pull both strands of loop through st.



fig.3 You now have 3 loops on hook.



fig.4 Hold loop at back of work.



fig.5 Wrap yarn round hook.



fig.6 Draw yarn through all 3 loops on hook.

Color Changing:

Make all color changes in the last 2 loops of the final stitch of the old color.

Color Change Ends:

Tie off and trim your color change ends as you go. Tie securely on the inside of your work. With amigurumi crochet it can be difficult to reach the ends once you have crocheted too many rows above.

For repeating stripes carry the unused color up the inside of the work to save keep cutting and re-tying.

Embroidered Stitches:

To hide the starting and fastening off ends of the embroidered stitches on the face, first thread your yarn needle with the appropriate yarn. Tie a knot in the end of your yarn and push needle into and out of toy between crochet stitches, coming out where you want the first embroidery stitch to be. As you pull on the yarn the polyester toy filling will catch the knot securely inside the toy. When you have worked the required embroidery stitches you can finish off by passing the needle in and out between different crochet stitches a few times until the yarn is securely caught up in the polyester filling. When secure, pull on end of yarn and snip off close to toy.

Stitch Marker Use:

Place marker in first stitch of each round. Move marker up with each completed round.

Stitch Placement: Work in both loops of the stitch unless specified otherwise.

Gauge (Tension):

Exact gauge is not crucial for this pattern. Just make sure your crochet hook is small enough to create a tight fabric that the stuffing can't poke through.

With the yarn and hook specified Donkey measures approximately 9" (23cm) tall. Cactus measures approximately 5" (13cm) tall

Materials for each

1	Light worsted weight, (DK/8 ply) yarn in the following color suggestions: Dante the Donkey: White, Grey, Black, Green, Pink, Dark Blue, Purple, Orange, Turquoise. Carlos the Cactus: Green, Light Brown, Dark Brown, Pink, Purple, Orange, Turquoise, Red.
2	Dante the Donkey: 2 x 9mm black plastic safety eyes. Carlos the Cactus: 2 x 6mm black plastic safety eyes.
3	Polyester toy stuffing.
4	Small piece of pink felt for cactus cheeks. (A hole punch is useful for making the tiny circles)
5	Fabric glue.

Equipment

1	Size D (3.25mm) crochet hook.
2	Scissors.
3	Large yarn needle.
4	Stitch marker.
5	Tweezers. (For stuffing small or narrow parts)
6	Large headed pins.

★The Pattern

Dante the Donkey



Head

Make 1 piece, starting at muzzle. Working in continuous spiral rounds.

With **White** yarn make **7 ch**. (Foundation chain)

Rnd 1 3 sc in second ch from hook, sc in back loop only of each of next 4 ch, 3 sc in last ch, rotate work and crochet in each of next 4 remaining loops on opposite side of foundation chain. (14 sts)

Rnd 2 2 sc in each of next 3 st, sc in each of next 4 st, 2 sc in each of next 3 st, sc in each of next 4 st. (20 sts)

Rnds 3-4 Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)

Rnd 5 [Sc in each of next 4 st, 2 sc in next st] 4 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 6	Sc in each st around. Change to Gray yarn.
Rnds 7-9	Sc in each st around. (3 rounds)
Rnd 10	[Sc in each of next 3 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (30 sts)
Rnds 11-12	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
Rnd 13	[Sc in each of next 4 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (36 sts)
Rnds 14-15	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
Rnd 16	[Sc in each of next 5 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (42 sts)
Rnd 17	Sc in each st around.
Rnd 18	[Sc in each of next 6 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (48 sts)
Rnd 19	Sc in each st around.

Flatten the head so that the foundation chain runs horizontally, from side to side. You can mark top center of face with a pin if you wish, to help with accurate eye placement. Insert safety eyes in between **Rnds 11** and **12**, spacing them **9 stitches** apart - (4 stitches either side of central stitch marked by pin).



Rnd 20	[Sc in each of next 6 st, invdec] 6 times. (42 sts)
Rnd 21	[Sc in each of next 5 st, invdec] 6 times. (36 sts)
Rnd 22	[Sc in each of next 4 st, invdec] 6 times. (30 sts)
Rnd 23	[Sc in each of next 3 st, invdec] 6 times. (24 sts)
Rnd 24	[Sc in each of next 2 st, invdec] 6 times. (18 sts) Stuff head.
Rnd 25	[Sc in next st, invdec] 6 times. (12 sts)
Rnd 26	[Invdec] 6 times. (6 sts) Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for finishing. Thread yarn tail onto yarn needle, pick up front loop only of remaining 6 stitches. Pull tight to close the hole. Fasten off. Weave in end. With a strand of Black thread sew two small nostrils over Rnds 2 and 3 of muzzle, spacing them 3 stitches apart.

Neck

	Make 1 piece, starting at top center of neck. Working in continuous spiral rounds. With Gray yarn make 2 ch .
Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)
Rnd 2	2 sc in each of next 6 st. (12 sts)

Rnd 3	[Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (18 sts)
Rnd 4	[Sc in each of next 2 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (24 sts)
Rnd 5	Working in back loops only: Sc in each st around.
Rnds 6-10	Sc in each st around. (5 rounds)
	Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.
	Sew round 5 of neck to underside of donkey's head, towards the back.

Body

	Make 1 piece, starting at front. Working in continuous spiral rounds.
	With Gray yarn make 2 ch .
Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)
Rnd 2	2 sc in each of next 6 st. (12 sts)
Rnd 3	[Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (18 sts)
Rnd 4	[Sc in each of next 2 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (24 sts)
Rnd 5	[Sc in each of next 3 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (30 sts)
Rnd 6	[Sc in each of next 4 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (36 sts)
Rnds 7-11	Sc in each st around. (5 rounds)
	Change to Pink Yarn.
Rnds 12-13	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
	Change to Purple Yarn.
Rnd 14	Sc in each st around.
	Change to Turquoise Yarn.
Rnds 15-16	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
	Change to Purple Yarn.
Rnd 17	Sc in each st around.
	Change to Orange Yarn.
Rnds 18-19	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
	Change to Purple Yarn.
Rnd 20	Sc in each st around.
	Change to Turquoise Yarn.
Rnd 21-22	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
	Change to Gray yarn.
Rnd 23	[Sc in each of next 5 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (42 sts)
Rnds 24-26	Sc in each st around. (3 rounds)
Rnd 27	[Sc in each of next 5 st, invdec] 6 times. (36 sts)
Rnd 28	[Sc in each of next 4 st, invdec] 6 times. (30 sts)
Rnd 29	[Sc in each of next 3 st, invdec] 6 times. (24 sts)
Rnd 30	[Sc in each of next 2 st, invdec] 6 times. (18 sts)
	Stuff body.
Rnd 31	[Sc in next st, invdec] 6 times. (12 sts)
Rnd 32	[Invdec] 6 times. (6 sts)
	Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for finishing. Thread yarn tail onto yarn needle, pick up front loop only of remaining 6 stitches. Pull tight to close the hole. Fasten off. Weave in end.
	Lightly stuff neck and pin to top front of donkey's body, just in front of Pink stripe. Sew in place, topping up with stuffing just before you close the seam.

Ears

	Make 2 pieces, starting at tip. Working in continuous spiral rounds.
	With Gray yarn make 2 ch .
Rnd 1	3 sc in second ch from hook. (3 sts)
Rnd 2	2 sc in each of next 3 st. (6 sts)
Rnd 3	[Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (9 sts)
Rnd 4	2 sc in each of next 6 st. (12 sts)
Rnds 5-8	Sc in each st around. (4 rounds)
Rnd 9	[Sc in each of next 3 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (15 sts)
Rnds 10-11	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
Rnd 12	[Sc in each of next 3 st, invdec] 3 times. (12 sts)
Rnds 13-14	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
To finish	1 ch (does not count as a st) flatten bottom of ear and sc through both the front and back layers together to close the ear. (6 sts)
	Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.
	Fold bottom of ear in half, sew sides of bottom third of ear together with a few stitches. Sew ears to head in between Rnds 19 and 21 , spacing them 8 stitches apart.

Front Legs

	Make 2 pieces, starting at hoof. Working in continuous spiral rounds.
	With Black yarn make 2 ch .
Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)
Rnd 2	2 sc in each of next 6 st. (12 sts)
Rnd 3	[Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (18 sts)
Rnd 4	Working in back loops only: Sc in each st around.
Rnd 5	[Sc in next st, invdec] 6 times. (12 sts)
Rnds 6-7	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
	Change to Gray yarn.
Rnds 8-17	Sc in each st around. (10 rounds)
Rnd 18	[Sc in each of next 3 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (15 sts)
Rnd 19	Sc in each st around.
	Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.
	Stuff legs and sew underneath body to lower front of donkey, directly next to each other.

Back Legs

	Follow pattern and instructions for Front Legs up to Rnd 18 only.
	Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.
	Stuff legs and sew underneath body to lower back of donkey, directly next to each other.

Tail

	Make 1 piece, working in rows.
	Leaving a long yarn tail at the beginning, with Gray yarn make 13 ch .
Row 1	Starting in second ch from hook, Slst in each of next 4 ch, sc in each of remaining 9 ch.
	Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.
	Cut 4 x 3" (5cm) lengths of black yarn. Fold yarn lengths in half and, using your crochet hook pull all loops through first Slst of tail (fig.7). Feed ends of yarn through loop and pull tight to form a tassel. Trim to desired length. Use both yarn tails to sew tail to back end of donkey.



fig.7 Feed tail ends through loop. Pull tight to form a tassel.



fig.8 Sew mane together with loops on the inside of the fold.

Mane

Make 1 piece, working in rows. (For loop stitch explanation see page 3).

With **Black** yarn make **22 ch**.

Note: Pull loops out to approximately 1" (2cm) long.

Row 1 Starting in second ch from hook, loop 1 in each ch to end, turn. (21 sts)

Row 2 Ch 1 (does not count as a st), sc in each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch 1 (does not count as a st), Loop 1 in each st to end.

Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.

Thread the yarn tail onto a yarn needle. Fold mane in half along its length so that the loops are on the inside of the fold and stitch the two sides together (**fig.8**). Sew mane onto top of head, just in front of ears, and down the back of neck to where the neck meets the body. Cut loops and trim to desired length.

Carlos Cactus (makes a great pincushion!)



Plant Pot

Make 1 piece, starting at base. Working in continuous spiral rounds.

With **Light Brown** yarn make **2 ch**.

Rnd 1 6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)

Rnd 2 2 sc in each of next 6 st. (12 sts)

Rnd 3 [Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (18 sts)

Rnd 4 [Sc in each of next 2 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (24 sts)

Rnd 5 [Sc in each of next 3 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (30 sts)

Rnd 6	Working in back loops only: Sc in each st around.
Rnd 7-8	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
Rnd 9	[Sc in each of next 9 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (33 sts)
Rnd 10	Sc in each st around.
Rnd 11	[Sc in each of next 10 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (36 sts) Change to Turquoise yarn.
Rnds 12-14	Sc in each st around. (3 rounds) Change to Light Brown yarn.
Rnds 15-16	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds) Change to Dark Brown yarn.
Rnd 17	Working in back loops only: Sc in each st around.
Rnd 18	[Sc in each of next 4 st, invdec] 6 times. (30 sts)
Rnd 19	[Sc in each of next 3 st, invdec] 6 times. (24 sts)
Rnd 20	[Sc in each of next 2 st, invdec] 6 times. (18 sts) Stuff Plant Pot.
Rnd 21	[Sc in next st, invdec] 6 times. (12 sts)
Rnd 22	[Invdec] 6 times. (6 sts) Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for finishing. Thread yarn tail onto yarn needle, pick up front loop only of remaining 6 stitches. Pull tight to close the hole. Insert yarn needle down center of plant pot, coming out at the center of the base, re-insert yarn needle one stitch apart from where it came out, finally emerging at the top center. Pull gently to form a flat bottom and top. Fasten off. Weave in end.
Rnd 23	Hold plant pot right way up and making all stitches in leftover front loops from Rnd 17 : Pull up a loop of Light Brown yarn in any st, 1 ch (does not count as a st), sc in same st as rejoined yarn, sc in each remaining st around, Slst to next st. (36 sts) Fasten off. Weave in the yarn ends.
Rnd 24	Hold plant pot upside down and making all stitches in leftover front loops from Rnd 6 : Pull up a loop of Light Brown yarn in any st, 1 ch (does not count as a st), sc in same st as rejoined yarn, sc in each of next 3 st, 2 sc in next st, [sc in each of next 4 st, 2 sc in next st] 5 times. Slst to next st. (36 sts) Fasten off. Weave in the yarn ends. With a strand of Pink yarn use running stitches to embroider a zigzag shape around the Turquoise stripe on the plant pot.

Head and Body

	Make 1 piece, starting at top. Working in continuous spiral rounds. With Green yarn make 2 ch .
Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)
Rnd 2	2 sc in each of next 6 st. (12 sts)
Rnd 3	[Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (18 sts)
Rnd 4	[Sc in each of next 2 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (24 sts)
Rnds 5-9	Sc in each st around. (5 rounds)
Rnd 10	[Sc in each of next 6 st, invdec] 3 times. (21 sts)
Rnds 11-12	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds) Insert safety eyes between Rnds 10 and 11 , spacing them 4 stitches apart.
Rnd 13	[Sc in each of next 5 st, invdec] 3 times. (18 sts)
Rnds 14-15	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
Rnd 16	[Sc in each of next 4 st, invdec] 3 times. (15 sts)

Rnds 17-21	Sc in each st around. (5 rounds)
Rnd 22	[Sc in each of next 3 st, invdec] 3 times. (12 sts)
	Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.
	Stuff the cactus. Sew cactus base to top center of plant pot.

Arms

	Make 2 pieces, starting at tip. Working in continuous spiral rounds.
	With Green yarn make 2 ch .
Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)
Rnd 2	2 sc in each of next 6 st. (12 sts)
Rnd 3	Sc in each st around.
Rnd 4	[Sc in each of next 2 st, invdec] 3 times (9 sts)
Rnds 5-6	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
Rnd 7	2 sc in each of next 3 st, [Invdec] 3 times. (9 sts)
Rnd 8-9	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)
	Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.
	Stuff arms and sew to sides of body in between Rnds 14 and 15 , so that they curve upwards.

Cactus Flower

	Make 2 pieces. Working in continuous spiral rounds.
	With Red yarn make 2 ch .
Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)
Rnd 2	Sc in each st around.
	Do not stuff. Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for finishing. Thread yarn tail onto yarn needle, pick up front loop only of remaining 6 stitches. Pull tight to close the hole. Fasten off. Weave in end.
	Sew a cactus flower to the tip of each arm.



fig.9 Sew Rnd 16 to leftover back loops from **Rnd 11**



fig.10 Join yarn in leftover front loop from **Rnd 14**, sc in each loop around.

Sombrero

	Make 1 piece, starting at top. Working in continuous spiral rounds.
	With Purple yarn make 2 ch .
Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)
	Change to Orange yarn.
Rnd 2	[Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (9 sts)

Rnd 3	[Sc in each of next 2 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (12 sts) Change to Purple Yarn.
Rnd 4	Sc in each st around. Change to Turquoise Yarn.
Rnd 5	[Sc in each of next 3 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (15 sts)
Rnd 6	[Sc in each of next 4 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (18 sts) Change to Purple Yarn.
Rnd 7	[Sc in each of next 5 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (21 sts) Change to Pink Yarn.
Rnd 8	[Sc in each of next 6 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (24 sts)
Rnd 9	[Sc in each of next 3 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (30 sts) Change to Purple Yarn.
Rnd 10	Sc in each st around. Change to Orange Yarn.
Rnd 11	Working in front loops only: [Sc in each of next 4 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (36 sts)
Rnd 12	[Sc in each of next 5 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (42 sts) Change to Purple Yarn.
Rnd 13	[Sc in each of next 6 st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (48 sts)
Rnd 14	Working in back loops only: [Sc in each of next 6 st, sc2tog] 6 times. (42 sts) Change to Turquoise Yarn.
Rnd 15	[Sc in each of next 5 st, invdec] 6 times. (36 sts)
Rnd 16	[Sc in each of next 4 st, invdec] 6 times. (30 sts) Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing. Fold brim in half. The crease will naturally fall on Rnd 14 where you crocheted into the back loops only. Sew each stitch from Rnd 16 to the corresponding leftover back loops from Rnd 11 (fig.9) . With point of sombrero facing towards you, pull up a loop of Pink yarn in any leftover front loop from Rnd 14 on the edge of the brim (fig.10).
Rnd 17	1 ch (does not count as a st), sc in same st as joined yarn, sc in each remaining st around. (48 sts) Change to Turquoise Yarn.
Rnd 18	Sc in each st around. Change to Orange Yarn.
Rnd 19	Sc in each st around. Fasten off. Weave in yarn ends. Sew sombrero to top of cactus' head. With a length of Red yarn sew a little V shape for mouth. Cut two small circles out of pink felt (you can use a hole punch, if you have one) and glue to either side of cactus' face.

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I'd love to see what you've made!

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