



Minimals In The Garden

An original crochet pattern by

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Minimals in the Garden

★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
hdc	half double crochet	htr	half treble crochet
dc	double crochet	tr	treble crochet
tr	treble crochet	dtr	double treble crochet

Abbreviations & Symbols

cm	centimeters
invdec	invisible decrease
mm	millimeters
Rnd(s)	Round(s)
st(s)	stitch(es)
()	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

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.

Special Stitch Explanations:

Loop stitch

(Note: The loops are formed on what is normally considered the 'wrong side' of the work. Do not turn the work inside out as you will need to leave the loops on the outside of the squirrel's tail).

Loop 1 (For additional guidance see figs 1-6, page 2)

Insert hook into next sc, form loop of yarn around first finger, draw this loop out to approx. 1" (2 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.

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, as its name suggests, 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.

Color Changing:

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

Tips for Neater Color Changes (optional):

1. Make the first stitch in the new color a slip stitch instead of a single crochet. (Don't pull the slip stitch too tight or it will be difficult to crochet into in the next round)
2. On narrow stripes (1-2 rounds), add 1 extra stitch of the old color to the end of every color change round (move marker up a stitch to reflect new start of round). This extra stitch will help to counteract the shortness of the slip stitch that replaced the single crochet.

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.

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 Minimals measure approximately 2 ½" (6 cm) tall excluding ears/antennae.

Materials for each

1	Light worsted weight, (DK/8 ply) yarn in the following color suggestions:				
		Head	Body	Arms	Legs
	Frog	Green	Pink	Green	Green
	Duck	Yellow	Turquoise	Yellow	Orange
	Bee	Yellow	Yellow & Black	Brown	Brown
	Butterfly	Light Blue	Dark Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue
2	Squirrel				
		Orange	Green	Orange	Orange
	Other colours: Mid Blue, Light Orange, White, Red				
	2 x 6 mm toy safety eyes. (Or beads or yarn instead)				
	Polyester toy stuffing .				
	Decorative buttons.				

Equipment

1	Size C (2.75mm) crochet hook.
2	Scissors.
3	Large yarn needle.
4	Smaller needle. (For sewing on buttons)
5	Stitch marker.
6	Tweezers. (For stuffing small or narrow parts)

★The Pattern



All Minimals: Head and Body

	Make 1 piece, starting at crown of head.
	With appropriate colored yarn make 2 ch. (See table above)
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 2 st, invdec] 6 times. (18 sts)
	For all Minimals except the frog, insert safety eyes in between Rnds 7 and 8 spacing 6 stitches apart. (Alternately sew on bead or yarn eyes once Minimal is stuffed and finished).
Rnd 11	[Sc in next st, invdec] 6 times. (12 sts)
	Stuff head.
Rnd 12	[Invdec] 6 times. (6 sts)
	Change to body color yarn. (For Bee continue in stripe pattern of 1 round Black followed by 1 round yellow)

Rnd 13	2 sc in each of next 6 st. (12 sts)
Rnd 14	[Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times. (18 sts)
Rnds 15-18	Sc in each st around. (4 rounds)
Rnd 19	[Sc in next st, invdec] 6 times. (12 sts) Stuff body.
Rnd 20	[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.

All Minimals: Arms

	Make 2 pieces, starting at hand.
	With appropriate colored yarn make 2 ch . (See table on page 4)
Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)
Rnds 2-4	Sc in each st around. (3 rounds) Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Sew top of each arm closed. Sew flat part of arm to neck crease on either side of Minimal.

All Minimals: Legs

	Make 2 pieces, starting at foot.
	With appropriate colored yarn make 2 ch . (See table on page 4)
Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)
Rnds 2-3	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds) Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Thread yarn tail onto yarn needle, pick up front loop only of remaining 6 stitches. Pull tight to close the hole. Fasten off. Sew to front of Minimal, flattening each leg with a stitch or two through the center. Leave a small gap between legs.



Frog

	Eyes
	Make 2 pieces, starting at center.
	With White yarn make 2 ch .
Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook, join with a Sl st to form a circle. (6 sts) Change to Green yarn in Slst.
Rnd 2	(Slst, sc) in next st, 2 sc in each of remaining 5 st around. (12 sts)

Rnds 3-4	Sc in each st around. (2 rounds) Attach safety eye through center of white circle.
Rnd 5	[Invdec] 6 times. (6 sts) Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for finishing. Use tweezers to stuff eyes. 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. Thread a tapestry needle with a 12" strand of Green yarn. Insert needle between Rnds 3 and 4 of eye, coming out of eye 2 stitches apart. Thread both ends of yarn onto yarn needle and insert between rounds 2 and 3 of head, coming out near bottom center of body. Do the same for the second eye, directly opposite the first, coming out underneath body 1-2 stitches away from first pair of threads. Tie both pairs of threads together and pull gently to form shaping of head. Tie a few more knots to secure, hide ends inside body.
Facial features	
With Black yarn embroider a single running stitch between Rnds 7 and 8 , approximately 6 stitches wide.	
Embellish frog with a button sewn to tummy.	

Duck

Beak	
Make 1 piece, starting at tip.	
With Dark Orange yarn make 2 ch .	
Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)
Rnd 2	Sc in each st around. Fasten off leaving a long yarn tail for sewing. Sew to front of face 1 round below eyes. Weave in ends.
Tuft	
Cut 4 strands of Yellow yarn into 6" lengths. Form a tassel on top of head by pulling through a stitch at the back of round 1. Feed the ends of the strands through the loop and pull tight. Trim to desired length.	
Tail Feathers	
Using 2 strand of Yellow yarn use the same technique as for the tuft to create a tail at the back.	
Embellish duck with a button sewn to tummy.	



Bee

Cap

Make 1 piece, starting at center.

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

Rnds 5-8 Sc in each st around. (4 rounds)

Rnd 9 (Hdc, dc) in next st, 2 tr in next st, (dc, hdc) in next st, sc in next st. (Do not finish round).

Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.

Place cap on head so stitches from round **9** are centred between eyes, sew to top and back of head using back stitch around edge of cap.

Antennae

Make 2 pieces.

Row 1 With 2 strands of **Brown** yarn held together make **5 ch**.

Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.

Sew to top of head a few stitches apart. Trim or weave in cast on ends.

Wings

Make 2 pieces, starting at tip.

With **White** yarn make **2 ch**.

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

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)

Rnds 4-5 Sc in each st around. (2 rounds)

Rnd 6 [Sc in each of next 2 st, invdec] 3 times. (9 st)

Rnd 7 Sc in each st around.

Rnd 8 [Sc in next st, invdec] 3 times. (6 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.

Sew base of both wings together. Sew to middle top of back.

Sting

Make 1 piece, starting at tip.

With **Brown** 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 each st around.

Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.

Sew to base of back.

Facial Features

Using **Red** yarn sew mouth with a single small running stitch 2 rounds below eyes.

Embellish bee with a button sewn to tummy.

Butterfly

Wings

Make 2 pieces, starting at base.

With **Mid Blue** yarn make **2 ch**

Rnd 1	6 sc in second ch from hook. (6 sts)
Rnd 2	[Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (9 sts)
Rnd 3	Sc in each st around.
Rnd 4	[Sc in each of next 2 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (12 sts)
Rnd 5	Sc in each st around.
Rnd 6	[Sc in each of next 3 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (15 sts)
Rnd 7	[Sc in each of next 4 st, 2 sc in next st] 3 times. (18 sts)
First Lobe	
Rnd 1	Sc in each of next 9 st, skip next 9 st. (9 sts)
Rnd 2	Working on these 9 sts only; Sc in each st around.
Rnd 3	[Sc in next st, invdec] 3 times. (6 sts)
Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for finishing. Do not stuff. 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.	
Second Lobe	
Join Bright Blue yarn in st directly to left of first lobe.	
Rnd 1	1 ch (does not count as st), sc in same st as join, sc in each of remaining 8 st) (9 sts)
Rnd 2	Sc in each st around.
Rnd 3	[Sc in next st, invdec] 3 times. (6 sts)
Follow instructions for finishing first lobe.	
Sew base of both wings together. Sew to back of butterfly, just under neck.	
Antennae	
Make 2 pieces.	
With Dark Blue yarn make 8 ch .	
Row 1	4 sc in second ch from hook, S1st in each of next 6 ch.
Tie cast on and cast off tails together. Sew to top of head 2 rounds apart.	
Facial Features	
Using Red yarn sew mouth with a single small running stitch 2 rounds below eyes.	
Embellish butterfly with a button sewn to tummy.	

Squirrel

Ears	
Make 2 pieces, starting at tip.	
With Dark Orange 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)
Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing.	
Do not stuff. Fold flat and sew to top of head 2 rounds apart. For ear tufts use 2 strands of Light Orange yarn to make a tassel in the top of each ear using same method as for tufts on duck.	
Tail	
Note: I used a variegated Orange yarn to get the color changes, but a plain dark Orange would do just as well, or you could change to a lighter Orange yarn towards the bottom of the tail.	
(See special stitch explanation for loop stitch on page 2/3)	
Make 1 piece starting at tip.	
With a Light Orange 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	Loop 2 in each st around. (12 sts)
Rnds 4-11	Loop 1 in each st around. (8 rounds)
Rnd 12	[Invdec] 6 times. (6 sts)
Fasten off, leaving a long yarn tail for finishing. Do not stuff. 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.	
Cut through ends of loops and roughly trim to desired length. Flatten tail. Sew to back of squirrel with a few stitches from the base to the neck. Trim tail into shape if required.	
Facial Features	
Using Black yarn sew a V shape with 2 running stitches for nose and a final vertical running stitch for mouth.	
Embellish squirrel with a button sewn to tummy.	



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