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Fuzzy Ferret



A crochet pattern by June Gilbank

Materials

- All instructions are applicable for any fuzzy yarn (see *Choosing a Yarn*, below).
- Hook size: H US/5mm (see *Gauge*, below)

Yarn Quantity

- Main colour: 1 skein, dark brown suggested
- Contrast colour (optional): 1 partial skein (face), cream/beige suggested

For my ferrets, I used Patons Divine in *Deep Earth* (dark brown) and *Soft Earth* (beige). Each ferret used approx 70m of yarn (although this will vary depending on the yarn and hook size you use).

Choosing a Yarn

The yarn chosen will affect the finished size and appearance of your toy. For my ferrets, I used Patons Divine yarn, which is a ‘fuzzy’ textured yarn, as opposed to an eyelash yarn. You can use an eyelash yarn for this pattern if you wish, but the ferret will look very long-furred and fluffy, and the ferret’s shape will be hidden by the lashes.

You could even use regular worsted weight yarn (with a smaller hook), but a textured yarn will give a more realistic result. How about trying a chenille or bouclé yarn?

Gauge

Gauge is unimportant for this pattern, providing the pieces are crocheted sufficiently tightly that they will not gape visibly when stuffed. To test a swatch, crochet the first 3 rounds and then push a piece of fibrefill behind it:

- If the stitches stretch open too much and the fibrefill is clearly visible, reduce the hook size.
- If you cannot insert the hook into the previous stitches, reduce your tension (crochet more loosely) or increase the hook size.
- The less ‘fuzzy’ your yarn, the smaller the hook size needed to prevent the stuffing from showing through. This will also result in a smaller ferret!

Notions

- Polyester fibrefill stuffing
- Yarn needle to weave in ends
- Needle and thread to attach eyes
- Stitch marker
- **Eye suggestions (black, approx 8mm diameter):**
 - o Stitch on 2 black buttons or beads
 - o Glue/sew on circles cut from felt
 - o Embroider eyes with yarn or embroidery thread
- **Nose suggestions (pink, dark brown or black triangle):**
 - o Stitch on a small button or bead
 - o Glue/sew on triangle cut from felt
 - o Embroider nose with yarn or embroidery thread

Abbreviations

ch	chain
sc	single crochet
st	stitch
sl st	slip stitch
sc2tog	single crochet decrease (insert hook into stitch and draw up a loop, insert hook into next stitch and draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through all 3 loops on hook)
hdc	half double crochet
MC	main colour (used throughout unless contrast colour specified)
CC	contrast colour

Notes

- Do not join at the end of each round; rounds are worked in continuous spirals.
- All stitches are worked in back loops only.
- Use a stitch marker to mark the beginning of each round. Move the marker up each time you start a new round.

Size Modifications

If desired, you may adjust the length of your ferret or the length of his tail to match the perfect ferret size you have in mind.

Body: add additional (or remove) rounds of sc in the line *Rnds 14-21* of the pattern.

Tail: add additional (or remove) rounds of sc in the line *Rnds 6-7* of the pattern.

Head (single-coloured ferret)

worked from nose to neck

Ch 2.

Rnd 1: 4 sc in 2nd chain from hook. (4 st)

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around. (8 st)

Rnd 3: (sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) four times. (12 st)

Rnd 4: (sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) six times. (18 st)

Rnds 5-6: sc in each st around. (18 st)

Rnd 7: sl st in next 6 st, sc in next 11 st, sl st in next st. (18 st)

Rnd 8: sl st in next 7 st, sc in next 9 st, sl st in next 2 st. (18 st)

Rnd 9: sl st in next 8 st, sc in next 7 st, sl st in next 3 st. (18 st)

Rnd 10: sl st in next 9 st, sc in next 9 st. (18 st)

Rnd 11: sc in each st around. (18 st)

Join with sl st to next st. Fasten off, leaving long end of yarn to attach head to body.

Head (dual-coloured ferret)

worked from nose to neck

With CC: ch 2.

Rnd 1: 4 sc in 2nd chain from hook. (4 st)

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around. (8 st)

Rnd 3: **CC:** sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st,

MC: (2 sc in next st, sc in next st) twice, sc in next st,

CC: sc in **same** st. (12 st)

Rnd 4: **CC:** sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 st,

MC: sc in **same** st, (sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) three times, sc in next st,

CC: 2 sc in next st. (18 st)

Rnd 5: **CC:** sc in each st around. (18 st)

Rnd 6: **CC:** sc in next 9 st,

MC: sc in next 4 st,

CC: sc in next 5 st. (18 st)

Use MC from now on.

Rnd 7: sl st in next 6 st, sc in next 11 st, sl st in next st. (18 st)

Rnd 8: sl st in next 7 st, sc in next 9 st, sl st in next 2 st. (18 st)

Rnd 9: sl st in next 8 st, sc in next 7 st, sl st in next 3 st. (18 st)

Rnd 10: sl st in next 9 st, sc in next 9 st. (18 st)

Rnd 11: sc in each st around. (18 st)

Join with sl st to next st. Fasten off, leaving long end of yarn to attach head to body.

Ear 1

Right-handers: this is the ferret's right ear

Left-handers: this is the ferret's left ear

With CC: ch 5.

Rnd 1: hdc in 3rd ch from hook, sc in next ch, sl st in last ch. Fasten off, leaving long end of yarn to attach ear to head.

Ear 2

Right-handers: this is the ferret's left ear

Left-handers: this is the ferret's right ear

With CC: ch 4.

Rnd 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next ch, hdc in last ch. Fasten off, leaving long end of yarn to attach ear to head. Weave long end of yarn down through last hdc, so both yarn ends are together.

Body

worked from neck to tail

Ch 2.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in 2nd chain from hook. (6 st)

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around. (12 st)

Rnd 3: (sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) six times. (18 st)

Rnd 4: (sc in next 5 st, 2 sc in next st) three times. (21 st)

Rnds 5-11: sc in each st around. (21 st)

Rnd 12: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 st) twice, sc in each st around. (23 st)

Rnd 13: sc in next 3 st, 2 sc in next st, sc in each st around. (24 st)

Rnds 14-21: sc in each st around. (24 st)

Rnd 22: (sc in next 2 st, sc2tog) six times. (18 st)

Rnd 23: (sc in next st, sc2tog) six times. (12 st)

Join with sl st to next st. Fasten off, leaving long end of yarn to attach tail to body.

Tail

worked from base to tip

Ch 8.

Rnd 1: sc in 8th chain from hook, to form a circle. Sc in each st around the circle. (8 st)

Rnds 2-4: sc in each st around. (8 st)

Rnd 5: sc2tog, sc in each st around. (7 st)

Rnds 6-7: sc in each st around. (7 st)

Rnd 8: sc2tog, sc in each st around. (6 st)

Rnd 9: (sc2tog, sc in next st) twice. (4 st)

Rnd 10: sc2tog. Fasten off and weave in end.

Stuff tail lightly if desired.

Front leg (make 2)

worked from foot to shoulder

Ch 2.

Rnd 1: 4 sc in 2nd chain from hook. (4 st)

Rnd 2: 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 st. (5 st)

Rnd 3: 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 st. (6 st)

Rnd 4: sc in each st around. (6 st)

Rnd 5: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 st) twice. (8 st)

Rnd 6: sc in each st around. (8 st)

Rnd 7: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 st) twice. (10 st)

Rnd 8: (sc2tog, sc in next 3 st) twice. (8 st)

Stuff leg firmly, then flatten open end and sl st across through both layers to close. Fasten off, leaving long end of yarn to attach leg to body.

Back leg (make 2)

worked from foot to shoulder

Ch 2.

Rnd 1: 4 sc in 2nd chain from hook. (4 st)

Rnd 2: 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 st. (5 st)

Rnd 3: 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 st. (6 st)

Rnd 4: sc in each st around. (6 st)

Rnd 5: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 st) twice. (8 st)

Rnd 6: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 st) twice. (10 st)

Rnd 7: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 st) twice. (12 st)

Rnd 8: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 st) twice. (14 st)

Rnds 9-10: sc in each st around. (14 st)

Rnd 11: (sc2tog, sc in next 5 st) twice. (12 st)

Rnd 12: (sc2tog, sc in next 2 st) three times. (9 st)

Flatten leg, then stuff leg so it is puffy but still flat. Now sl st across open end of leg through both layers to close. Fasten off, leaving long end of yarn to attach leg to body.

Finishing

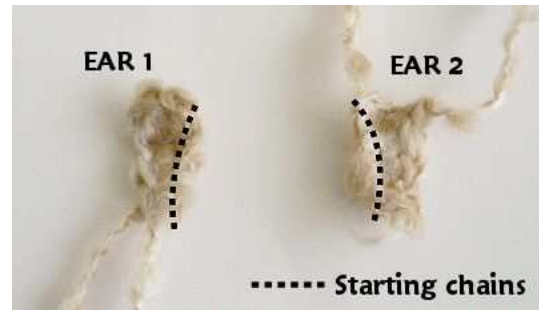
Face



Look at the angle of the neck to identify which side of the head is the top (this is especially important for the single-coloured ferret as there are no other clues as to which way up it should go). The neck is sloped so it is longer at the top than at the bottom (see left). To avoid confusion, you may wish to attach the head to the body before adding the facial features.

Ears

The ears will be sewn to the head by their starting chain side (see right). Position the ears just behind the MC colour change (dual-coloured ferret) or just forward of where the head begins to decrease in size (single-coloured ferret). Curve the ears slightly before sewing them to the head (i.e. the middle of the ear will be sewn slightly further back than the top and bottom ends).



Nose

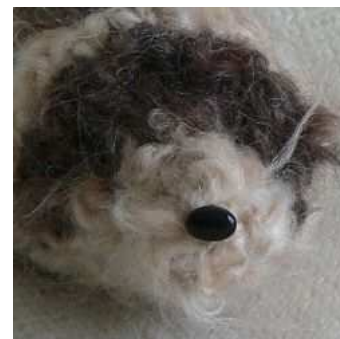
The position of the nose should be just above the centre of Rnd 1 of the face. To make the nose, try one of the following suggestions:



A. Cut a small triangle from felt, and sew or glue it to the face.



B. Embroider the nose in a triangular shape, using a suitably coloured yarn.



C. Sew an appropriately-sized bead or button to the face.

Eyes

Position the eyes (approx 8mm diameter) as in the photos. For a dual-coloured ferret, make sure the eyes are within the dark mask area. To make the eyes, try one of the following suggestions:

- a. Stitch on black buttons or beads.
- b. Cut two circles from black felt, and sew or glue them to the face.
- c. Embroider eyes with yarn or embroidery thread.

For the eyes in my example ferrets, I used an 8mm circle of felt sewn to the head, with a 6mm black animal eye over the top.

Head & Body

Position the neck opening over the front of the body. Adjust the height and angle until it looks good (the base of the neck should be approximately halfway up the front of the body – see picture). Using a yarn needle and the long yarn end from the head, sew the head to the body around the edge of the neck.



Tail

Using a yarn needle and the long yarn end from the body, sew the open end of the tail to the open end of the body.



Legs



Front Legs

Position each front leg so the shoulder end is halfway up the body and about half an inch back from the neck join. Using a yarn needle and the long yarn end from the leg, sew the leg to the body along the top of the shoulder. Turn the ferret onto its back and sew the inside of the leg to the side of the ferret about an inch down from the shoulder (see right). This will anchor the leg in the correct position at the side of the body.



Back legs

Position each back leg so it is just forward of the back end of the body, and sits alongside the body. Using a yarn needle and the long yarn end from the leg, sew the leg to the body along the shoulder end of the leg. Working around the leg, sew the inside of the leg to the side of the ferret about an inch and a half down the leg. This will anchor the leg in the correct position at the side of the body.



Feedback

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