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Fuzzy Guinea Pig



A crochet pattern by June Gilbank

Materials

- All instructions are applicable for any bulky weight yarn (see *Choosing a Yarn*, below).
- Hook size: E US/3.5mm and H US/5mm (see *Gauge*, below)

Yarn Quantity

Short haired guinea pig

- Main colour [A]: 1 skein, dark brown, ginger or black suggested
- Contrast colour [B] (optional): 1 partial skein, white suggested
- Worsted weight (WW) yarn for ears: 2 short lengths (about 2m each), white, pink, brown or black suggested

For my guinea pig, I used Patons Divine in *Deep Earth* (dark brown) and *Icicle White* (off-white).

Long haired guinea pig

- Thin core eyelash yarn: 1 skein, any guinea pig colour e.g. brown, ginger or white
- Worsted weight (WW) yarn: 1 skein in a shade similar to the eyelash yarn
- Worsted weight yarn for ears: 2 short lengths (about 2m each), white, pink, brown or black suggested

Choosing a Yarn

The yarn chosen will affect the finished size and appearance of your toy. For my short haired guinea pig, I used the bulky weight yarn Patons Divine, which is a ‘fuzzy’ textured yarn, as opposed to an eyelash yarn. For the long haired guinea pig, I approximated a bulky weight yarn by holding a strand of worsted weight yarn together with an eyelash yarn. You can use any type of yarn you wish, e.g. a chenille or bouclé yarn, but to get a life-size guinea pig the yarn should be bulky weight (or two thinner yarns held together).

Gauge

Gauge is unimportant for this pattern, provided 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 piggy!

Notions

- Polyester fibrefill stuffing
- Yarn needle to weave in ends
- Needle and thread to attach eyes
- Stitch marker
- Pink or brown yarn, or embroidery thread and needle, for nose and mouth
- **Eye suggestions (black, approx 9mm diameter):**
 - Stitch on 2 black buttons or beads
 - Glue/sew on circles cut from felt
 - Embroider eyes with yarn or embroidery thread
 - The PlanetJune special technique (see **Eyes**, page 8)

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)

Notes

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

About the pattern...

The pattern for the head and body is the same for a long haired or short haired guinea pig; the only difference is the colouring. So, by choosing the appropriate option for each section, you can mix and match to make a guinea pig with any combination of single/dual colour and long/short hair.

Colour code

- A** main colour yarn (used throughout unless otherwise specified) [e.g. brown]
B contrast colour yarn [e.g. white]

Head and body (single-coloured)

worked from nose to neck

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: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 st) three times. (15 st)

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

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

Rnd 6: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 st) three times. (21 st)

Rnd 7: sc in next 5 st, sc2tog, sc in next 6 st, (2 sc in next st, sc in next st) three times, sc in next 2 st. (23 st)

Note: *The 'sc2tog' in the next round (Rnd 8) is at the top of the head. When you have made this stitch, slip a stitch marker or a scrap of contrasting yarn through the stitch to identify which side is the top.*

Rnd 8: sc in next 2 st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 15 st. (24 st)

Rnd 9: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 st) four times. (28 st)

Note: If using animal (safety) eyes, insert them now and attach the backs.

Rnds 10-16: sc in each st around. (28 st).

Rnd 17: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 st) four times. (32 st)

Rnds 18-21: sc in each st around. (32 st)

Rnd 22: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 st) four times. (36 st)

Rnds 23-25: sc in each st around. (36 st)

Rnd 26: (sc in next 4 st, sc2tog) six times. (30 st)

Rnd 27: (sc in next 3 st, sc2tog) six times. (24 st)

Rnd 28: (sc in next 2 st, sc2tog) six times. (18 st)

Rnd 29: (sc in next st, sc2tog) six times. (12 st). Stuff body through hole.

Rnd 30: (sc2tog) six times. (6 st). Fasten off and weave in ends.



Head and body (dual-coloured)

worked from nose to neck

With **B**: 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: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 st) three times. (15 st)

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

B: sc in next 3 st,

A: 2 sc in next st, sc in next st,

B: sc in next 3 st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 st. (18 st)

Rnd 5: sc in each st around as follows: 3**A**, 3**B**, 3**A**, 8**B**, 1**A**. (18 st)

Rnd 6: **A**: 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 st,

B: sc in next 3 st,

A: 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 st,

B: sc in next 2 st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 st,

A: sc in next st. (21 st)

Rnd 7: **A**: sc in next 4 st,

B: sc in next st, sc2tog,

A: sc in next 5 st,

B: (sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) three times, sc in next st,

A: sc in next 2 st. (23 st)

Rnd 8: **A**: sc in next 2 st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st,

B: sc2tog,

A: sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 st,

B: sc in next 8 st,

A: sc in next 3 st. (24 st)

Rnd 9: **A**: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 st) twice, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 st,

B: sc in next 3 st, 2 sc in next st,

A: sc in next 5 st. (28 st)

Note: If using animal (safety) eyes, insert them now and attach the backs.

Rnds 10-13: **A**: sc in each st around. (28 st).

Rnd 14: sc in each st around as follows: 20**A**, 8**B**. (28 st)

Rnds 15-16: **B**: sc in each st around. (28 st)

Rnd 17: **B**: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 st) four times. (32 st)

Rnds 18-19: **B**: sc in each st around. (32 st)

Rnd 20: sc in each st around as follows: 24**B**, 8**A**. (32 st)

With **A**:

Rnd 21: sc in each st around. (32 st)

Rnd 22: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 st) four times. (36 st)

Rnds 23-25: sc in each st around. (36 st)

Rnd 26: (sc in next 4 st, sc2tog) six times. (30 st)

Rnd 27: (sc in next 3 st, sc2tog) six times. (24 st)

Rnd 28: (sc in next 2 st, sc2tog) six times. (18 st)

Rnd 29: (sc in next st, sc2tog) six times. (12 st). Stuff body through hole.

Rnd 30: (sc2tog) six times. (6 st). Fasten off and weave in ends.

Ear (make 2)

Note: For added cuteness, use a different colour yarn for each ear!

With WW yarn and E hook: make a magic ring.

Row 1: 5 sc in magic ring. Pull magic ring tight, but do not join first stitch to last stitch. Ch 1, turn. (5 st)

Row 2: sc in next st, 2 sc in next 3 st, sc in next st. Ch 1, turn. (8 st)

Row 3: (sc in next st, 2 sc in next st) three times, sc in next 2 st. (11 st)

Fasten off, leaving long end of yarn to attach ear to head.



Front leg (make 2)

worked from foot to shoulder

Note: For a dual-coloured guinea pig, make one front leg in each colour.

Short haired guinea pig

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)

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

Long haired guinea pig:

With WW yarn only:

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)

With both yarns held together:

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)

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

Back leg (make 2)

worked from foot to shoulder

Note: For a dual-coloured guinea pig, make both back legs in colour A.

Short haired guinea pig

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)

Rnds 6-7: sc in each st around. (8 st)

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

Long haired guinea pig:

With WW yarn only:

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)

With both yarns held together:

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)

Rnds 6-8: sc in each st around. (8 st)

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



Finishing

Face

Remember the stitch marker/yarn you placed at Rnd 8? That marks the top of your guinea pig's head, so you can orient the piggy correctly before attaching limbs and the face.

For a long haired guinea pig, you will need to trim the fur around the face before you embroider the nose and mouth!

To do this, take some sharp sewing scissors and trim the lashes of the eyelash yarn from the nose to just behind the eyes. Be very careful not to snip through any of your stitches, which would unravel the guinea pig! Do not cut the lashes away completely – you want the guinea pig to still have a fuzzy look – just trim them down so they are shorter and the face of the guinea pig is more distinct.



Ears

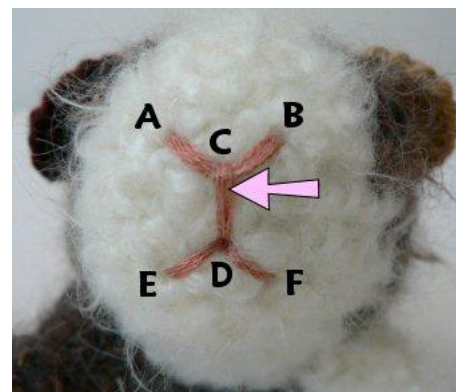
The ears will be sewn to the head by the flat edge. Position the ears so they slope backwards at an angle (see below). Curve the ears slightly before sewing them to the head. Bend the ears down at the curved edge so they do not stick up and they look a little floppy.



Nose and Mouth

See right (the arrow marks the centre of Rnd 1).

1. Using embroidery thread, crochet cotton or similar, make a loose stitch coming up at A and down at B.
2. Bring up the needle at C (very slightly up from the centre of Rnd 1), catching your first stitch to pull it down into a 'V' shape.
3. Bring down the needle at D.
4. Make a stitch from E to D.
5. Make a stitch from F to D.



Eyes

Position the eyes (approx 9mm diameter) as in the photos. They should be positioned approximately between Rnds 5 and 6, but if your piggy is too fluffy to count the rounds you can just judge by eye. For a dual-coloured guinea pig, make sure the eyes are within the dark areas.

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 guinea pigs, I used my special technique using black animal (safety) eyes and white felt. It helps the eyes to show up against a dark background and adds a little more realism, but it is completely optional! To replicate my technique, cut a 1cm square of white felt. Snip a tiny cross shape in the middle of the square to make a small hole, then poke the stem of your animal eye through the hole. Trim the felt right down all around the eye, so it is barely visible. Now attach the animal eye as usual. The white will just show around the edges of the eye.



Legs

Front legs

Stuff legs firmly, then position them at the front of the body (see photos for reference). Remember to position them far enough back to leave room for the guinea pig's neck. Using a yarn needle and the long yarn end from the leg, sew the leg to the body all around the open end of the leg.

Back legs

Stuff legs so the foot end is firmly stuffed, but the open end is loosely stuffed. Position each back leg so it is just forward of the back end of the body, and sits alongside the body. Flatten the shoulder end of the leg along the body, then, using a yarn needle and the long yarn end from the leg, sew the shoulder end of the leg to the body. Make a couple of stitches to sew the inside of the leg to the side of the guinea pig 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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