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Fuzzy Rat



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 for worsted weight yarn and H US/5mm for bulky weight yarn (see *Gauge*, below)

Yarn Quantity

- Bulky weight yarn, 1 skein, dark brown, black, or white suggested
- Small quantity of worsted weight yarn (beige, pink or light brown suggested) for ears, nose and tail.

For my rat, I used the bulky weight yarn Patons Divine in *Deep Earth* (dark brown), and the worsted weight yarn Bernat Satin in *Sable* (light brown).

Choosing a Yarn

The yarn chosen will affect the finished size and appearance of your toy. For my rat, I used the bulky weight yarn Patons Divine, which is a ‘fuzzy’ textured yarn, as opposed to 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 rat, 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 rat!

Notions

- Polyester fibrefill stuffing
- *Optional*: a 30cm pipe cleaner (also called *chenille stem*) to make the tail poseable
- Yarn needle to weave in ends
- Stitch marker
- **Eye suggestions (black, approx 8mm diameter):**
 - o Attach animal eyes (also called ‘safety eyes’)
 - o Stitch on 2 black buttons or beads
 - o Glue/sew on circles cut from felt
 - o Embroider eyes 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)

Magic ring

The magic ring method gives a better finish for the ears as it doesn't leave a hole in the middle. See www.planetjune.com/magicring for instructions. If you prefer, you may substitute:

Ch 2. Rnd 1: 6 sc in 2nd chain from hook. (6 st)
for: *Make a magic ring, ch 1. Rnd 1: 6 sc in magic ring. (6 st)*

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 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.
- Use bulky weight yarn and H hook unless instructed otherwise.

Head and body

worked from nose back

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 each st around. (8 st)

Rnd 4: (2 sc in next st, sc in next st) four times. (12 st)

Rnd 5: sc in each st around. (12 st)

Rnd 6: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 st) four times. (16 st)

Rnd 7: sc in each st around. (16 st)

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

Rnd 8: sc in next 4 st, sc2tog twice, sc in next 4 st, (2 sc in next st, sc in next st) twice. (16 st)

Rnds 9-10: sc in each st around. (16 st)

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

Rnd 11: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 st) four times. (20 st)

Rnds 12-14: sc in each st around. (20 st)

Rnd 15: (2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 st) four times. (24 st)

Rnds 16-22: sc in each st around. (24 st)

Rnd 23: (sc2tog, sc in next 4 st) four times. (20 st)

Rnds 24-27: sc in each st around. (20 st)

Rnd 28: (sc2tog, sc in next 3 st) four times. (16 st)

Rnd 29: (sc2tog, sc in next 2 st) four times. (12 st). Stuff head and body through hole.

Rnd 30: (sc2tog) six times. (6 st).

Join with sl st to next st. Do not close up the open end. Fasten off, leaving long end of yarn to attach tail to body.

Ear (make 2)

With worsted weight yarn and E hook: make a magic ring.

Row 1: 6 sc in magic ring. Pull magic ring tight, but do not join first stitch to last stitch. Ch 1, turn. (6 st)

Row 2: sc in next st, 2 sc in next 4 st, sc in next st. (10 st)

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



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)

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

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.

Tail

Note: My rat's tail is about the same length as the head plus body of the rat; you may choose to make the tail longer or shorter as desired. If you are using a pipe cleaner in the tail, select one that is approximately 2 inches longer than the desired tail length (or cut it to size if it is too long).

1. With worsted weight yarn and E hook: leave a few inches of yarn free, then ch 6.
2. Sc in 6th chain from hook, to form a circle. Sc in each st around the circle. (6 st)
3. From this point, sc around and around to form a narrow tube.
4. Continue to sc around until the tail is about half as long as you'd like it to be. Sc2tog once, then continue to sc around again.
5. *Optional:* When you get near the end, sc2tog to further thin the tail, then continue to sc around. *(This sc2tog is optional as you may find it difficult to continue to sc around when the tail is very thin.)*
6. When the tail reaches the desired length, sl st through the opposite side of the tube to close the end of the tail. Fasten off and pull end through to the inside.

Finishing

Face

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

Nose

See picture on right for reference.

Note: point D marks the centre of Rnd 1.

1. With a yarn needle and worsted weight yarn, make a loose stitch coming up at A and down at B.
2. Bring up the needle at C, catching your first stitch to pull it down into a 'V' shape.
3. Bring down the needle at D.



Eyes

Position the eyes (approx 8mm diameter) as in the photos. They should be positioned approximately between Rnds 5 and 6, but if your rat is too fluffy to count the rounds you can just judge by eye.

Ears

The ears will be sewn to the head by the flat edge.

Fold each ear in half so that the flat edge (dotted line in first picture below) becomes a 'C' shape (dotted line in picture on right).

Position the ear so it points upward and outward (see photos for reference), then, keeping the ear in the curved shape, use a yarn needle and the long yarn end from the ear to sew the ear to the head.



Legs

Front legs

Stuff legs firmly, then position them at the front of the body, so they are pointing slightly forwards (see photos for reference). Remember to position the open ends far enough back to leave room for the rat's neck. Using a yarn needle and the long yarn end from each leg, sew the legs to the body all around the open end of each 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 rat about an inch and a half down the leg. This will anchor the leg in the correct position at the side of the body.

Tail

Note: Omit steps 1-4 if you are not using a pipe cleaner inside the tail.

1. Fold over each end of the pipe cleaner so the sharp ends are not exposed.
2. Insert the pipe cleaner into the tail and push one end down to the tip of the tail, leaving the other end sticking out from the open end.
3. Using the yarn end from the open end of the tail, tie a tight knot around the pipe cleaner to prevent it from slipping out of position.
4. Push the uncovered end of the pipe cleaner into the hole at the back of the body, until the tail meets the back of the body.
5. Using a yarn needle and the long yarn end from the body, sew the tail to the body.



Feedback

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