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CUTE CREATURES TO CROCHET



Amigurumi

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FUN!

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beach buddies



'ERE 'ERE MEET OUR BUNNY GIRL



PIGGY POWER MAKE IT SIMPLE

43
patterns to
crochet today!



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5-A-DAY! CRAFT YOURSELF A FRUIT SALAD



HELLO KITTY A REAL TOP CAT



WHAT A LOT
OF LOVELY
TREATS! LET'S
SEE WHAT ELSE
WE CAN FIND...



CUTE CREATURES TO CROCHET



Amigurumi

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WELCOME!

Welcome to this special issue of *Amigurumi Collection* from the makers of *Simply Crochet* magazine. Packed with more than 40 super-cute collectable crochet creatures, *Amigurumi Collection* is perfect for all crochet lovers! From adorable cats and dogs to the land of make-believe where dragons and fairytale princesses live, there's something for everyone to enjoy. You can even make some cool accessories in the amigurumi style. And because it's never too early to start thinking about Christmas, we've included a fun Santa and festive elf for you too! If you fancy making a couple of these adorable pocket pals and haven't tried crochet before, just follow our handy step-by-step guide to the basic stitches needed for amigurumi and you'll be hooked!



Amanda

Amanda Robinson
 Editor



PAGE 75



Amigurumi

COLLECTION



PAGE 89



PAGE 40

68 LITTLE RED & HER WOLFY FRIEND



37



83

54 CHIYO-CHAN



ANIMAL MAGIC

12 BATHING BUDDIES

A couple of cool polar pals.

17 ROLL UP, ROLL UP

We love this cheerful circus bear with his pointy hat and frilly ruff.

21 CHICKEN LITTLE

Hook a chirpy little chicken!

27 HELLO KITTY

Who can resist this iconic cutie?

31 SILLY SAUSAGE

A puppy with rainbow stripes.

34 SIMPLY PURR-FECT

An adventurous moggy to love.

37 TAKO-YAKI

You'll love our mini bear brothers.

40 PABLO THE PIG

An easy project to practise on.

42 INCY WINCY SPIDER

The friendliest arachnid around!

45 STOMP, STOMP!

Our baby elephant is a real star.

47 TRAVELLING TRIO

Three adventurous friends.

50 UNDER THE SEA

A tiny crab who's so appealing.

POCKET PALS

54 CHIYO-CHAN

This quirky doll is just so charming.

57 KOKESHI DOLLS

Go Japanese with kimono cuties.

43

amigurumi
to crochet



Wherever you see our C icon on pattern pages, that's where to start crocheting.



62 FINDERS KEEPERS



57 KOKESHI DOLLS



31 SILLY SAUSAGE



27



47



98 LITTLE OAKLEY & HIS ACORN CUP HAT

62 FINDERS KEEPERS
This little girl is on a treasure hunt.

MAKE BELIEVE

68 LITTLE RED
A pair of story-book characters.

72 FAIRY PLAYGROUND
Toadstools to set the scene.

75 FRIENDLY FIRE
The cutest ever baby dragon.

83 MONSTER MASH
This guy's not at all scary!

86 CINDERELLA
Hook your own belle of the ball.

89 BUTTERFLY KISSES
Our little fairy is quite magical.

92 JURASSIC CUTE
Dynamic duo of adorable dinos.

95 GNEVILLE GNOME
A garden favourite!

98 LITTLE OAKLEY
Woodland critter with a nutty hat.

101 DIGITAL LOVE
This robot is a tech-lover's dream.

JUST FOR FUN

106 FIVE A DAY
A treat for fruit lovers.

110 TUTTI FRUTTI
Adorn a bag in pompom style.

112 HATS OFF!
A pincushion with pizzazz.

114 SANTA'S HELPER
Delightful elfish companion.

117 SANTA BABY
Jolly Father Christmas.

GOOD READS

6 WHY WE LOVE AMIGURUMI
Designers share their passions.

24 THE MAGIC OF MEI
We chat with Mei Li Lee.

60 YARN REVIEWS
Lovely amigurumi yarns tested.

78 AN AMIGURUMI SENSATION
An interview with Stephanie Lau.

80 CLUSTERS AND BOBBLES
Learn some special techniques.

PAGE 119
CROCHET
GUIDE
STEP-BY-STEP
PICTURES TO
GUIDE YOU
THROUGH ALL
THE CROCHET
TECHNIQUES.



"Don't think that you can't do it. Just grab your hook."



WHY WE LOVE AMIGURUMI

They're wildly cute, irresistibly quirky and disarmingly easy to make – but watch out, they're fearsomely addictive, too. Welcome to the world of amigurumi...

Have you ever been tempted by those tiny, sweetie-coloured creatures with uncommonly large heads? Don't worry, you are not alone. Amigurumi are a devout passion for so many crocheters and we can understand why. To learn more about what is arguably the most adorable of crochet crafts, we had a chat with three of our favourite talented amigurumi creators.

ONE OF A KIND

First things first, what is it that makes amigurumi stand out from other kinds of toys? What makes them so desirable, both to makers and shoppers? "The main thing that differentiates amigurumi from other soft toys is that there's no way of mass

producing them," says Maike van den Dries, who sells her amigurumi online at www.creepyandcute.etsy.com. "While the plush toys that you can buy in shops can be mass-produced (sometimes even by children in third world countries) to keep the prices low, there is no machine for crocheting amigurumi. Every single stitch has to be worked carefully by hand."

For Mei Li Lee, working with yarn is key to the attraction. "Making amigurumi gives you full control over creating something from scratch and you can literally see shapes forming before your eyes as you crochet each stitch," she says. "The whole process is very organic and it involves just your two hands, some yarn and a hook, and toy stuffing." Plus, there's the fact that

every single amigurumi creation is inevitably unique. "Amigurumi are rarely made in one sitting, thus your mood changes over time and that indirectly affects the little details you put into making the doll," Mei says. "I think that's the biggest difference between amigurumi and other kinds of toys – you can easily share an amigurumi pattern and have fellow crafters recreate the same thing, but there's always a little bit of them that goes into the resulting doll, which changes its final look, if only ever so slightly."

Stitcher Stephanie Lau agrees that the handmade element is a huge part of the appeal. "Amigurumi are incredibly special stuffed animals, since they're crocheted with lots of love," she says. "Each piece is

MAKE AMIGURUMI

one of a kind as they're not manufactured by machines or mass-produced. It's neat to see that everybody's amigurumi looks different, even if they're following the exact same crochet pattern to make it!"

GETTING STARTED

Want to give it a try for yourself? Don't worry, it's really not that difficult. "Don't think that you can't do it," insists Maïke. "Just grab a hook

and some yarn, and ask someone to teach you how to crochet, or, as I did, teach yourself by looking up tutorials on the internet. There are so many helpful blogs and YouTube videos that will teach you how to crochet amigurumi."

In fact, if you already know how to crochet, you're probably familiar with the main techniques you need to know. "Most amigurumi are made with one basic stitch,

called double crochet or dc in the UK," says Maïke. "I advise you to search for patterns that only contain double crochet stitches for your first projects. Once you've mastered that, you can start making other patterns containing

different stitches."

Considering the cute, curvy shape of most amigurumi, it should come as no surprise that most are made by crocheting in spiral

rounds. Stephanie Lau says: "Almost all of the pieces (head, body, arms, legs, ears) are worked in the round. Some other techniques that I would recommend learning and mastering are the magic loop and invisible decrease as they give a much cleaner overall look to amigurumi."

Mei agrees: "A basic understanding of what increases and decreases mean will get you off to a good start. And once you

learn how to finish off pieces and hide the remaining yarn ends, congratulations – you made it!" It really is as simple as that.

Maïke recommends starting with a small, basic shape, "like a sphere to get the hang of increasing and decreasing to get the right shape. Then you can look for an amigurumi pattern online or in *Simply Crochet*." She adds: "Don't be too hard on yourself if your first amigurumi doesn't look exactly like the picture shown in the pattern. You really don't want to see my first ones! Just keep doing it and your technique will improve every time."

Maïke isn't alone in this, as Mei says: "From making crochet chains, I graduated to mastering the magic loop and eventually made my first amigurumi doll – a lumpy lamb that was, in my eyes, the most adorable thing I had ever made!"

AMIGURUMI CHALLENGES

As you're getting used to making amigurumi, don't fret if you encounter a

"AMIGURUMI MAKES ARE
CROCHETED WITH LOTS OF LOVE
– EACH ONE IS ONE OF A KIND."



Opposite: Stephanie Lau's gorgeous green amigurumi dragon – turn to page 75 for the pattern to make him. **This page, clockwise from top left:** Bubblegum the polar bear; Crochet designer and blogger Mei Li Lee; Kaoru-chan; A Cheburashka-inspired amigurumi doll. All crochet by Mei Li Lee.



This page, clockwise from left: Marie Antoinette; Deer head; Stitcher Maïke van den Dries; Miss Jellybean; Gmurk. All crochet by Maïke van den Dries.



few problems along the way. "For amigurumi, it is generally recommended that you go down a couple of hook sizes than you would normally use, in order to get tight, small stitches," Stephanie warns. "Some people start off with a crochet hook that's too large because they tend to use the crochet hook that is recommended for that particular weight of yarn. This can result in fabric with holes, stitches that are not as tight, and even sometimes in the stuffing being visible or coming out."

Also, as Stephanie discovered months after getting started, there is actually a 'right' and a 'wrong' side to the amigurumi fabric. "Someone pointed out that my own amigurumi were actually 'inside-out' and when I looked closely I did notice that my stitches and work looked different to those pictured in the amigurumi books that I was following," she admits. "The 'right' and 'wrong' sides result in different shapes

and the 'right' side is less bumpy and much smoother!"

Mei suggests using a stitch marker once you reach Round 3 of any amigurumi pattern. "This is essential so you won't lose track of the stitches you've made – making a few extra stitches, or a few less, may change how your amigurumi looks in the end." She adds: "Don't worry about pulling your yarn too tightly when you

crochet; your first doll is bound to be a little bit more holey, but that's OK. Just stick to practising the stitches that will form the right shapes for now."

Maïke suggests making your first few amigurumi using a light-coloured yarn, which seems like excellent advice to us. "Dark and black yarns can be tricky, because it's much harder to see the stitches," she says, adding: "And don't crochet for too long when you're a beginner. I made that mistake myself and spent hours on the couch trying to learn to crochet, which was very bad for my

muscles – since everything was new to me, I was very tense. After a while, my shoulders, arms, wrists and fingers would really start to hurt!" So, in other words, make sure you take frequent breaks to stand up, stretch, relax, get a cuppa – hang on, we're falling in love with amigurumi even more!

A LONG-TERM LOVE AFFAIR

We suspect that by now you're fully prepared to give your heart over to amigurumi, which we (and our three experts) completely understand. "I am absolutely in love with the fact that I can actually put a face to the many balls of yarn that I have in my basket, turning bundles of fuzzy mohair or cotton fibre into special characters that I can name, photograph and tell stories with," Mei enthuses. "I also love how fuss-free making amigurumi is – I can bring along my yarn and hook, and crochet away at anytime, anywhere, without having to worry that I am messing up a table or someone's car or couch with my stuff!"

The portability of amigurumi-making appeals to Maïke too, but for her, she explains, the enduring passion lies in the

"BECAUSE YOU ONLY NEED
YARN AND A HOOK, YOU CAN
REALLY DO IT ANYWHERE."

MAKE AMIGURUMI

Ichigo-chan
MADE BY
MEI LI LEE



huge potential for creativity: "Because you only need a skein of yarn and a crochet hook, you can really do it anywhere. Outside in the park, while travelling... wonderful! More than that, though, I love that there are endless possibilities in making and

designing amigurumi. Every shape can be crocheted. But be careful," she warns, "making amigurumi is very addictive."

Stephanie boarded the amigurumi train when she was just ten years old, picking up the craft again in 2010 and soon developing her amigurumi addiction to include an array of jaw-droppingly desirable designs. "I love seeing my little stuffed animals come to life as I begin with my ball of yarn and crochet hook," she comments. "It's amazing being able

"THE SKY'S THE LIMIT WITH CROCHET, AND YOU CAN ADD YOUR OWN SPECIAL TOUCHES."

to sketch out a design, figure out the shapes, and then bring it to life with crochet! The sky's the limit with what you can crochet, and they are just so cute with so many possibilities for adding your own special touches, such as adding fabric lining, flowers or embroidering on

initials. Plus, they generally don't take too much time to crochet, especially compared to a blanket or a sweater. They make such sweet, heartfelt, handmade gifts that can be treasured forever!"

More than that, though, Stephanie is thrilled that amigurumi-making is attracting lots of fans across the globe, and in all sectors of society. "I'm so excited to hear that amigurumi have gained popularity in so many countries around the world!" she exclaims. "From

teenagers to grandmas, expectant mums to crafty dads, so many people are starting to get excited about crocheting their very own little stuffed animals!"

A world packed with creative people merrily crocheting ultra-cute creatures like these ones? Now that's a place that we're definitely glad to be living in.

Written by Judy Darley

FURTHER READING

Are you hungry for more amigurumi goodness? Visit our experts' crochet blogs to pick up some top tips. Mei Li Lee blogs at www.amigurumei.com – prepare yourself for some seriously cute amigurumi makes. Stephanie Lau blogs over at www.allaboutami.com (take a peek at the handy post titled 'Amigurumi for Beginners' for masses of great hooking hints). Maïke van den Dries posts regularly at facebook.com/madebymaïke



This page, clockwise from top left: Crochet designer and blogger Stephanie Lau; Three little amigurumi bunnies; Adorable – two fuzzy creations; A sweet amigurumi lamb – we love those big button eyes. All crochet by Stephanie Lau.



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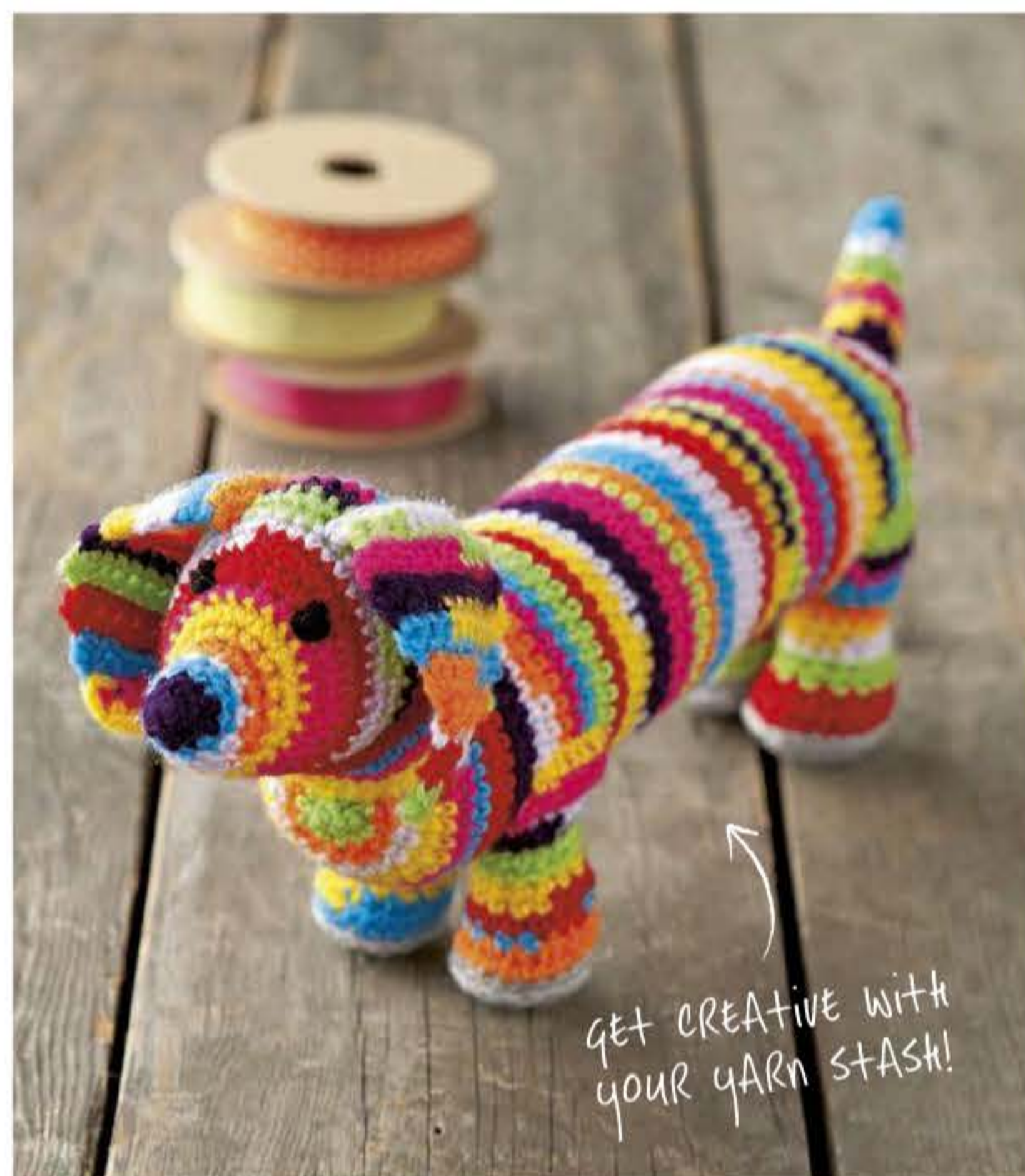
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16
Sweet critters
to crochet

ANIMAL MAGIC

From our super-cool cover stars to cute bears, bunnies, cats and more, your amigurumi fun starts here!



get CREATIVE with
your YARN STASH!

BATHING BUDDIES

Hook this adorable polar pair of best friends designed by Mei Li Lee – they're so cute!



Polar pals



YOU WILL NEED

- 4ply yarn in white, yellow, orange, red, turquoise, black, coffee brown and apple green
- Black and fuchsia stranded cotton
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Tapestry needle
- 3 x 4mm black round brads
- 2 x 4mm blue round brads
- A 6mm black oval animal's nose
- Toy stuffing
- Small pieces of white felt
- Craft glue

MEASUREMENTS

Pola the polar bear approx 15cm (6in) tall

Tux the penguin approx 10cm (4in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

Inv dec Invisible decrease: insert your hook into the front loop of the first st. Without putting the yarn round the hook, bring the hook to the front of the work and insert the hook into the front loop of the next st (3 loops on hook). Yrh and draw through all 3 loops. For a full list, see page 130.



This little pair of best friends are so cute, aren't they? You can see how they've caught the sun with their rosy cheeks! When the heat is up, they'll help you feel chilled – since their natural habitat is frosty waters they're an ice-cold reminder of refreshing waters for bathing in and cooling off.

Designer Mei Li Lee has done a wonderful job of giving them both tons of personality with characterful facial features. They each have fun beach gear too – Tux the penguin has a natty Mexican-style sun hat and Pola the polar bear has a gorgeous stripy bathing costume and a ducky float ring around her middle. The pretty little bow in her hair is a lovely finishing touch.

We just love them!

C POLA THE POLAR BEAR HEAD

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next dc, 1dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 7 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Round 8 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 6 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [48 sts]

Round 9 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 7 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [54 sts]

Rounds 10-19 Dc in each dc around. [54 sts]

Round 20 *Inv dec, dc in next 7 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [48 sts]

Round 21 *Inv dec, dc in next 6 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Round 22 *Inv dec, dc in next 5 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 23 *Inv dec, dc in next 4 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 24 *Inv dec, dc in next 3 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 25 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Stuff the head.

Round 26 *Inv dec, dc in next dc; rep from * 5 times more. [12 sts]

Round 27 (Inv dec) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Thread

through remaining stitches to close, but do not cut thread as you will be using it for the eye indentations.

To shape the head, gently press to mould it into an oval. **01**

EYE INDENTATIONS

With a tapestry needle, take the working yarn through the head to a stitch on the left side of the head, positioning it at the bottom of Round 15. Make one horizontal stitch and bring the thread back down to the bottom of the head. Gently tug on the yarn to create a slight indentation. Now repeat with the right side of the head leaving 5 stitches in between the indentations. Trim excess yarn.

NOSE

Apply glue to a black brad and insert it in the centre between the eye indentations, below Round 15.

FACIAL FEATURES

Cut out 2 half-moons of white felt to match the size of the black brads. Glue them near the indentations. Add glue onto the black brads and pop one in each indentation.

Using black embroidery thread, sew a 'W' for the lips.

With fuchsia embroidery thread, sew on 3 diagonal slits on each side of Pola's cheeks to give her a sunburnt, or blushed, look.

BODY

Using red yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next dc, dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Rounds 5 and 6 Change to white yarn. Dc in each dc around.

Rounds 7 and 8 Change to red yarn. Dc in each dc around.

Rounds 9 and 10 Change to white yarn. Dc in each dc around.

Rounds 11 and 12 Change to red yarn. Dc in each dc around.

Rounds 13 and 14 Change to white yarn. Dc in each dc around.

Rounds 15 and 16 Change to red yarn. Dc in each dc around.

Round 17 Change to white yarn. Dc in

Polar pals

each dc around.

Round 18 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Stuff the body.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Rounds 3 and 4 Dc in each dc around.

Round 5 Inv dec, dc in next dc, inv dec, dc in the next 7 dc. [10 sts]

Rounds 6-11 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Stuff lightly.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc in the ring. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next dc, dc; rep from * 5 times more. [15 sts]

Rounds 4 and 5 Dc in each dc around. [15 sts]

Round 6 *Inv dec, dc in next dc; rep from * 5 times more. [10 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Stuff lightly.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc in the ring. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Round 3 Dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

BOW

Using turquoise yarn, ch16.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [15 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Fold the ends to meet in the centre. Make a few small backstitches to secure the shape. Loop remaining yarn end over the centre of the piece 3 times. Make one backstitch to secure the loops in place.

FLOAT RING

Using yellow yarn, ch29, ss to first ch to form a loop, being careful not to twist. (You can add or reduce chains if necessary – just make sure the length

of the chain is long enough to go around Pola's waist.)

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each ch around. [29 sts]

Round 2 *2dc in next dc, dc; rep from * around. [45 sts]

Rounds 3-8 Dc in each dc around. 02

Round 9 *Inv dec, dc in next dc; rep from * 5 times more. [29 sts]

Round 10 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Match the inner circle of the piece with the outer circle and whipstitch them together. Stuff as you go along. 03

DUCK HEAD

Using yellow yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next dc, dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Rounds 4-6 Dc in each dc around.

Round 7 *Inv dec, dc in next dc; rep from * 5 times more. [12 sts]

Stuff the head.

Round 8 (Inv dec) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off, weave in ends and leave a long tail.

BEAK

Using orange yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc in the ring. [5 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Sew the beak onto the centre of the duck head.

DUCK FACIAL FEATURES

Using black embroidery thread, sew on 2 slits for the eyes.

TO FINISH

Pin the pieces in place to gauge where each part should go.

Sew body onto head.

Sew on the arms, feet and ears.

Sew on the bow.

To assemble the float: sew the duck head onto the float ring.

TUX THE PENGUIN

BODY

Using black yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]



Round 3 *2dc in next dc, dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 7 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Rounds 8-22 Dc in each dc around.

Round 23 *Inv dec, dc in next 5 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 24 *Inv dec, dc in next 4 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 25 *Inv dec, dc in next 3 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 26 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Stuff the body.

Round 27 *Inv dec, dc in next dc; rep from * 5 times more. [12 sts]

Round 28 (Inv dec) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Thread through remaining stitches to close, but do not cut thread as you will be using it for the eye indentations.

BEAK

Using yellow yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc in the ring. [5 sts]

Polar pals

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Round 3 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail – do not cut thread as you will use it to stitch beak to head.

Flatten the piece.

EYE INDENTATIONS

With a tapestry needle, take the working yarn through the head to a stitch on the left side of the head, positioning it at the bottom of Round 10. Make one horizontal stitch and bring the thread back down to the bottom of the head. Gently tug on the yarn to create a slight indentation. Now repeat with the right side of the head leaving 7 stitches in between the indentations. Trim excess yarn.

Sew on the beak between the eye indentations.

FACIAL FEATURES

Cut out 2 half-moons of white felt to match the size of the blue brads. Glue them near the indentations. Add glue onto the blue brads and pop one in each indentation.

With fuchsia embroidery thread, sew on 3 diagonal slits on each of Tux's cheeks to give him a sunburnt look.

TUMMY

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next dc, dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Rounds 5-11 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off.

Flatten piece and whipstitch the open end closed. Leave a long tail.

WINGS (MAKE 2)

Using black yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 8dc in the ring. [8 sts]

Rounds 2-5 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

FEET (MAKE 2)

Using yellow yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 8dc in the ring. [8 sts]

Rounds 2 and 3 Dc in each dc around.



Fasten off.

Flatten piece and whipstitch the open end closed. Leave a long tail.

SUN HAT

Using coffee brown yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 Dc in each dc around.

Round 4 *2dc in next dc, dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Rounds 5-8 Dc in each dc around.

Round 9 2dc in each dc around. [36 sts]

Round 10 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Round 11 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 6 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [48 sts]

Round 12 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 7 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [54 sts]

Round 13 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 8 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [60 sts]

Round 14 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 9



dc; rep from * 5 times more. [66 sts]

Round 15 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 10 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [72 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. 04

To make the hat strap: weave the tail in slightly under the brim of the hat. Leave a long strand and attach the end to the other side of the hat. Weave in the ends and trim excess yarn.

Using the apple green yarn, sew a zigzag pattern around the crown of the hat.

TO FINISH

Pin the pieces carefully in place to gauge where each of the parts should go. 05

Sew the tummy onto the body.

Sew on the wings and feet.

Top Tux off with the sun hat.

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Circus bear



ROLL UP, ROLL UP

Pack your trunk and head off to the circus with Kate Bruning's charming brown bear.

Circus bear



DOUBLE
CROCHET



DK
WEIGHT



3.5MM
4MM

YOU WILL NEED

- DK yarn, approx 50g brown (we used a tweed)
 - Small amounts of DK yarn in cream/natural, light blue and red
 - A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - Stitch markers
 - Toy stuffing
 - A pair of 9mm safety eyes
 - A 15mm safety nose
 - 4 sets of 16mm safety joints
- For yarn stockists, contact
Sirdar 01924 231682
www.sirdar.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

22cm (8½in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.



For a birthday celebration or just because, this adorable little bear is just the right amount of quirky and cute. He has so much character with his dark eyes and shiny black nose, and his hat and ruff make him look like he's about to jump up and dance!

Any brown DK yarn will do but we used one with a tweedy slub to mimic the different shades that naturally occur in a bear's fur.

His head, body, arms, legs and accessories are all worked separately then sewn together.

We have made him with posable limbs – just like a traditional teddy – but you don't have to. If it's too complicated you can simply stitch his limbs in place.

C HEAD

NOTE Before starting to make the head, cut a 40cm (16in) length of brown yarn. This will be used to stitch up the head before you begin Round 22.

Round 1 Using cream/natural yarn and a 4mm hook, ch2, 6dc into second ch from hook, ss to first dc to join. [6 sts]

Round 2 *1dc, 2dc into next st; repeat from * around. [9 sts]

Round 3 *2dc, 2dc into next st; repeat from * around. [12 sts]

Round 4 *3dc, 2dc into next st; repeat from * around. [15 sts]

Rounds 5 and 6 Dc into each st around.

Round 7 Change to brown yarn, 5dc, 2dc into each of next 5 sts, 5 dc. [20 sts]

Round 8 5dc, 2dc into each of next 10 sts, 5dc. [30 sts]

Round 9 Dc into each st around.

Round 10 10dc, 2dc into each of next 10 sts, 10dc. [40 sts]

Round 11 Dc into each st around.

Round 12 15dc, 2dc into each of next 10 sts, 15dc. [50 sts]

Rounds 13-15 Dc into each st around.

The following round creates a hole that is sewn up later.

Round 16 13dc, ch12, skip the next 24 sts, 13dc. [26 dc and ch12-sp]

Round 17 13dc, dc in ch12-sp, 13dc. [38 sts] ⁰¹

Round 18 Dc into each st around.

Round 19 7dc, skip the next st, *5dc, skip the next st; repeat from * 4 times more. [32 sts]

Round 20 6dc, skip the next st, *4dc,

skip the next st; repeat from * 4 times more. [26 sts]

Round 21 5dc, skip the next st, *3dc, skip the next st; repeat from * 4 times more. [20 sts]

Using the pre-cut length of brown yarn, sew up the hole left between Rounds 16 and 17. Curve the longer edge (the 24-st side) of the hole around the shorter edge (the 12-ch side) so that both sides join up. Sew together. This forms two equal bumps on the bear's head. ⁰²

Round 22 2dc, *skip the next st, 2dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [14 sts]

Before inserting the eyes and nose, stuff the head firmly as this helps to get them into the perfect position. Place the eyes and nose into position using the image as a guide, remove stuffing then attach the safety backs to the eyes and nose and re-stuff ⁰³. Stuff the forehead so that the bumps are even, leaving a little cleft between the two. ⁰⁴

Round 23 (2dc, skip next st) twice, *1dc, skip next st; repeat from * 3 times more. [8 sts]

Round 24 *1dc, skip next st; repeat from * 3 times more. [4 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Round 1 Using brown yarn and a 4mm hook, ch2, 6dc into the second ch from the hook, ss to the first dc to join. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *1dc, 2dc into next st; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 4 Dc into each st around.

Round 5 *5dc, skip next st; repeat from * around. [15 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Position the 2 ears on the bear's head, using the image as a guide, and sew them securely in place using long tail and a needle.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Round 1 Using brown yarn and a 4mm hook, ch2, 6dc into the second ch from the hook, ss to the first dc to join. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *3dc, 2dc into the next st; repeat from * around. [15 sts]

Rounds 4-7 Dc into each st around.

Circus bear

Round 8 *4dc, skip the next st; repeat from * around. [12 sts]

Rounds 9-11 Dc into each st around.

The elbow is worked back and forth in rows but counted as Round 12:

Round 12 2dc, place marker in the next st, turn, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the same st, 3dc, turn, ch1 (does not count as st), skip same st, dc into the next st.

Round 13 2dc, dc into the side of the elbow, dc into marked st, skip the next st, 6dc, dc into the other side of the elbow, dc into the next st. [12 sts]

Round 14 *3dc, skip next st; repeat from * around. [9 sts]

If you are adding joints to your bear, position the spindle disc into the inward-facing side of the shoulder with the disc plate inside the arm, spindle poking out.

Stuff the arm.

Rounds 15-18 Dc into each st around. [9 sts]

Add a little more stuffing.

Round 19 *2dc, skip next st; repeat from * around.

Fasten off. [6 sts]

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Round 1 Using brown yarn and a 4mm hook, ch2, 6dc into the second ch from the hook, ss to the first dc to join. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *1dc into the next st, 2dc into the next st; rep from * around. [18 sts]

Rounds 4-9 Dc into each st around.

Round 10 *5dc, skip next st; repeat from * around. [15 sts]

Rounds 11 and 12 Dc into each st around.

Round 13 *4dc, skip next st; repeat from * around. [12 sts]

Rounds 14-16 Dc into each st around.

Round 17 *3dc, 2dc into next st; repeat from * around. [15 sts]

The foot is worked back and forth in rows but counted as Round 18:

Round 18 3dc, place marker in next st, turn, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in same st, 3dc, turn, ch1 (does not count as st), skip same st, 3dc, dc into marked st, dc into next st, turn, ch1 (does not count as st), skip same st, 4dc, turn, ch1 (does not count as st), skip same st, 3dc, turn, ch1 (does not count as st), skip same st, 2dc, turn.

Round 19 Ch1 (does not count as st), skip the same st, dc into the next st, work 5dc into the side of the foot, dc into each of the next 9 sts around the back of the foot, work 5dc into the other side of the foot. [20 sts]

If you are adding joints to your bear, position the spindle disc into the



Circus bear

inward facing side of the shoulder with the disc plate inside the arm, spindle poking out. ⁰⁵

Round 20 *3dc, skip the next st; repeat from * around. [15 sts]

Round 21 *2dc, skip the next st; repeat from * around. [10 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a tail.

Stuff the leg and use the tail to close up the hole.

BODY

Round 1 Using brown yarn and a 4mm hook, ch2, 6dc into the second ch from the hook, ss to first dc to join. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc into each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *1dc, 2dc into the next st; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc, 2dc into the next st; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Round 5 Dc into each st around.

Round 6 *3dc, 2dc into the next st; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Round 7 Dc into each st around.

Round 8 *4dc, 2dc into the next st; repeat from * around. [36 sts]

Round 9 *5dc, 2dc into the next st; repeat from * around. [42 sts]

Rounds 10-12 Dc into each st around. [42 sts]

Round 13 *6dc, skip the next st; repeat from * around. [36 sts]

Rounds 14-16 Dc into each st around.

Round 17 *5dc, skip the next st; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Round 18 Dc into each st around.

Round 19 *4dc, skip the next st; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Round 20 Dc into each st around.

Round 21 *3dc, skip the next st; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 22 Dc into each st around.

If you are using joints, stuff the body firmly for shape and then attach the arms and legs, inserting the protruding spindle through the body.

Take out the stuffing and then fix the washer and locking disc onto the spindle inside the body.

Round 23 *2dc, skip the next st; repeat from * around. [12 sts]

Stuff firmly.

Round 24 *Dc, skip the next st; repeat from * around.

Fasten off. [6 sts]

HAT

Round 1 Using light blue yarn and a 3.5mm hook, ch2, 4dc into the second ch from the hook, ss to the first dc to join. [4 sts]

Round 2 *1dc, 2dc into the next st; repeat from * around. [6 sts]

Round 3 Dc into each st around.

Round 4 *1dc, 2dc into the next st; repeat from * around. [9 sts]

Round 5 Dc into each st around.

Round 6 *2dc, 2dc into the next st; repeat from * around. [12 sts]

Round 7 Dc into each st around.

Round 8 *3dc, 2dc into the next st; repeat from * around. [15 sts]

Round 9 Dc into each st around.

Round 10 *4dc, 2dc into the next st; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 11 Change to red yarn, dc into each st around.

Fasten off.

Using red yarn, embroider 3 polka dots up the hat in a line and one on top. Stuff the hat and then stitch it onto the bear's head at a jaunty angle using the image as a guide.

RUFF

Round 1 Using light blue yarn and a 3.5mm hook, ch10, ss to first ch to join in a loop.

Round 2 Ch2 (counts as htr), 29htr into the loop, ss to first htr to join. [30 htr]

Round 3 2htr in each st around. [60 htr]

Round 4 2htr in each st around. [120 htr]

Round 5 Change to red yarn, dc into each st around. [120 sts]

TO FINISH

Sew the ruff to the body taking care to pleat it evenly. ⁰⁶

Sew the head to the body using tail of yarn and a needle.



Chirpy chicken



CHICKEN LITTLE

Hook yourself a new feathered friend by making a cute chicken with our special design from DMC.

Chirpy chicken



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Natura Crochet Cotton 302, (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Ivory N02
 - Yarn B Noir N11
 - Yarn C Tropic Brown N22
- A 2.5mm (US B/1) hook
- Tapestry needle
- Felt for beaks and feet in red, orange or yellow
- Toy stuffing

This cute chicken pattern is from the DMC Design leaflet *Family of Chicks Amigurumi* (RRP £2.50). For more information, plus details of local DMC stockists, go to www.dmccreative.co.uk

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

Chickens aren't just for Easter – they're adorable and chirpy all year round. This cute chicken pattern from DMC, the makers of yarn designed specially for crochet, is small and can be hooked up very quickly. You could easily rustle one up next time you find yourself waiting for a train.

The yarn, Natura Crochet Cotton, is a 4ply thread that gives an even stitch texture. It comes in a multitude of colours that range from bright to pastel, so you can make a large, multi-coloured flock.

We love the way this chicken's legs dangle over the edge of a table or shelf, making sure that anywhere she sits looks like home. Once you've made space for one perch, though, we're sure you'll want to make more!

NOTES

Polyester stuffing: DMC recommends that you check the latest safety laws and regulations to ensure your choice of stuffing fully complies with them.

To crochet the amigurumi, either work in a spiral using a stitch marker or a small length of coloured thread to indicate the beginning of each round, or start each round with a turning chain and finish with a ss. The choice is yours.

BODY

Using Yarn A, make a magic ring.

Round 1 Work 6dc into magic ring. (OR 2ch, 6dc into second ch from hook join into a circle with a ss.) [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc into each dc to end. [12 sts]

Round 3 *1dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc * rep from * to * to end. [18 sts]

Round 4 *1dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc * repeat from * to * all around. [24 sts]

Round 5 *1dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next dc * repeat from * to * all around. [30 sts]

Round 6 *1dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc * repeat from * to * all around. [36 sts]

Rounds 7-11 Dc into each st around.

Round 12 *1dc in next 4 dc, dc2tog * repeat from * to * all around. [30 sts]

Round 13 Dc into each st around.

Round 14 *1dc in next 3 dc, dc2tog * repeat from * to * all around. [24 sts]

Round 15 and 16 Dc into each st around.

Round 17 *1dc in next 2 dc, dc2tog * repeat from * to * all around. [18 sts]

Round 18 *1dc into next dc, dc2tog * repeat from * to * all around. [12 sts] Stuff firmly.

Round 19 Dc2tog around. [6 sts]

Round 20 Dc into each st around, ss into next st and close.

WINGS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, ch6.

Rows 1 and 2 Ch1, 5dc to end. Turn.

Row 3 Ss in first st, ch1, 3dc.

Fasten off, leaving long end to stitch wing to body.

TO FINISH

Following the picture on page 21, stitch wings to each side of body.

Add French knot eyes in Yarn B and cut out red, orange or yellow felt comb, beak and feet.

Using matching thread, stitch comb and beak to head.

Using Yarn C, tie a knot at the end of the thread, leaving a short end. Thread one foot onto the yarn. Thread yarn through base of chicken, then a foot ending with a knot so that the feet match. Trim yarn.

The DMC pattern leaflet also includes instructions for making a little round chick, so you can make a brood of brightly coloured birds!



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Tel: 0116 275 4000 email: consumer@dmccreative.co.uk

Mei's golden rule is that "the eyes have it". So true!



THE MAGIC OF MEI

We chat to Mei Li Lee, the talented designer of several seriously cute amigurumi projects in *Amigurumi Collection*.

Q When did you first start to make things? Were you inspired or taught by any of your family members, and what kind of things did you first make?

A As a child, I was more into colouring books, crayons and stickers. My mom is a very arty person so she did occasionally whip up some homemade playdough for me and my siblings. At one point, I developed a thing for pressed flowers. And then I was into writing poems and making cards for Mother's Day (I was convinced that being able to rhyme meant that I was a good poet). I loved my art sessions, but I must say that I was a pretty average kid – I didn't have any special

talent for art. I used to envy both my sister and brother, who were good with drawing, painting and also moulding clay into wondrous works of art. I used to play with my sister's handmade clay and fabric dolls or get her to draw paper dolls for me.

I didn't have a crafty kind of hobby right up until three years ago, when I stumbled upon a book on amigurumi. I had never touched a crochet hook in my life but somehow I was at a point in my life when I was eager to try something (anything!) new. So I just went ahead and bought the book and nearly did my head in trying to figure out all the steps! I would've given up halfway if my husband hadn't

found some YouTube tutorial videos for me that I used to cross-reference. My first finished doll was a lumpy little lamb that was full of large see-through holes! I felt happily triumphant nevertheless.

Q How has your interest in creating and design developed since then? Have you ever studied design, or has it just developed as a hobby?

A The only training I had in art was during my school years, where we would have an hour's art lesson per week. I didn't get to do much designing in my everyday life, though I did try to make some hand-sewn softies at one point but I failed miserably

DESIGNER PROFILE



Far left: Mei's Pippi Longstocking-inspired doll has the cutest outfit! **Left:** A character inspired by Cheburashka from a 1966 Soviet children's story **Top:** Mr Murusaki The Sleepy Owl lives up to his name! **Above:** Merron-chan looks extremely pleased with her VW campervan toy.

because I couldn't sew straight! The whole amigurumi journey has been a wonderful one for me as I slowly realised that I was getting myself involved in 'designing' rather than just 'making' dolls. Now everything I see or hear is a potential source of inspiration. I watch a lot of Japanese anime and whenever I chance upon a super-cute character I always have this urge to design an amigurumi pattern based on it and share it with the rest of the fans out there!

Q Where do you live, and what do you do to earn a living?

A I live in the bright and colourful city of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia. I'm a features journalist for one of the country's leading English dailies, *Star 2*. I actually write for the features section of the newspaper. I cover mostly women's interest and family stories, and as you might guess, I have a penchant for craft-themed articles. I also have a fortnightly craft column, called Craftypedia, in the same section, where I share fun step-by-step tutorials on all kinds of trending craft projects and techniques. I love them all!

Q What is Craftypedia all about? And apart from crochet, which other crafts do you love the best?

A Craftypedia is a fortnightly craft column and it was originally conceived to encourage families to take up crafting with their young ones. My editor knew that I was into crafting and one day just approached me to see if I was interested in starting my own column.

Craftypedia has been a joy to write for. I enjoy designing craft tutorials for the column and I also love taking all the step-by-step photography myself, although it can get a bit challenging when I have to photograph my own hand in the frame! I also love creating bite-sized crafty videos (available on www.youtube.com/amiguruMEI) to go with each tutorial.

I've never been particularly good at any one craft and doing the Craftypedia column has given me the opportunity to try out so many fun-tastic new craft styles! I must say that making amigurumi sparked off my creative sense and I find that I now take to all kinds of new crafts quickly. I now have this huge chest of drawers in my room that's just filled with

all kinds of crafty supplies and every time I run out of ideas I'll just rummage through each compartment until something strikes my fancy!

As for the crafts that I love best other than crochet, I do quite like needle felting but I'm so bad at it still!

Q Do you crochet things for yourself, or make gifts for other people?

A I usually make amigurumi on a whim, and it's often to satisfy my yearning for owning toys that aren't easily acquired in my part of the world, such as Studio Ghibli-themed toys, for instance. From time to time, I also like making characters for my mom and my sister and sometimes my husband (when I can't think of what else to buy for him!). And last year, I made a super-cute Totoro hat for my newborn nephew.

Q When and why did you first start your AmiguruMEI blog?

A I started my blog a few months after I picked up on the amigurumi craft. I love photography and having a blog provides a great way for me to share my novice photo-taking and also give my

Right: Panda-chan has been busy shopping for oranges!
Below: A cute fluffy bunny cuddles up in a cosy mug.
Below right: Chiyo-chan is Mei's Cheburashka-inspired doll – turn to page 54 for a pattern to make her.



"I TRY TO EQUIP MY CHARACTERS WITH A JAPANESE ANIME KAWAII (CUTE) TOUCH"

handmade dolls some screen time.

I love picture books and I've always wanted to write my own stories. I was deeply impressed by Ickle and Lardee from www.mymilktoof.blogspot.com. So inspired, in fact, that I decided to create photo stories for each of my amigurumi characters, each of which had already started to take on special characteristics! My first special doll was Mei-chan, a fuzzy pink fox wearing a Totoro hat, who is a sort of "me" in the amigurumi world. My husband had also bought me my own domain (amiguruMEI.com) as a surprise Valentine's Day gift and from there I started crafting my blog, giving my dolls a life of their own.

Q Which kinds of amigurumi designs do you love creating the most? What sort of things inspire you?

A I love animal-themed amigurumi and I'm big on anthropomorphism. I'm head-over-heels in love with Japanese imagery, so I try to equip each of the characters I make with a Japanese anime-like kawaii (cute) touch. My

inspiration comes mainly from Japanese anime, but I also like creating girl characters that resemble my almost-five-year-old niece. She's the apple of my eye and just brings me so much wonder and surprise each time she opens her mouth! My Chiyo-chan doll (page 54) is one of the first characters that takes after her.

Q What practical tips would you give to people who make amigurumi from your patterns – how can they make the finished items look their best?

A I think a lot of my fellow crafters have done a great job in making amigurumi based on my patterns. I love sharing amigurumi patterns and it's always such a joy to see that I've managed to make someone else happy with my amigurumi musings. I usually try to be as detailed as possible when I write my patterns, so that people can get the very best results from their own creations.

My advice would simply be: "The eyes have it." If you're able to follow the part of my instructions about designing the eyes, then I think you're off to a great start! And I always believe in crafting from the heart – my cutest and quirkiest characters are almost always born out of a sheer love for making something because I want to, and not because I have to. So enjoy what you're making, it will definitely show in the end result!



Mei's super-sweet Hello Kitty design is right opposite! You'll find more of her adorable amigurumi on pages 37, 54, 68 and 89 of Amigurumi Collection.

MEI LI LEE ONLINE

www.amiguruMEI.com



Enter the delightful world of AmiguruMEI and you'll find lots of wonderful free patterns to create the cutest characters. Mei's blog posts are illustrated with her adorable photos that use tiny props to bring her creations to life. You can also catch up on Mei's news and what's inspiring her.



HELLO KITTY

Who could resist Mei Li Lee's crochet take on the iconic kawaii sweetheart?

Cute kitten



YOU WILL NEED

- 4ply yarn in white, yellow, cobalt blue, red, green and brown
- Stranded cotton in dark brown and yellow
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- 2 x 4mm pink brads
- Tapestry needle
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Craft glue

ABBREVIATIONS

Inv dec Invisible decrease: insert your hook into the front loop of the first st. Without putting the yarn round the hook, bring the hook to the front of the work and insert the hook into the front loop of the next st (3 loops on hook). Yrh and draw through all 3 loops. For a full list, see page 130.

This fabulous feline is a worldwide favourite, and she's somehow even cuter when rendered in crochet stitches. Mei Li Lee's adorable amigurumi design includes Hello Kitty's sweet dungarees, bright red bow and crunchy red apple.

It comes from Mei Li Lee's book, which is devoted to Hello Kitty crochet projects – there are 25 in total. So if you're a fan of both Hello Kitty and crochet, it's a must-have!

C HEAD

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next dc, 1dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 7 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Rounds 8-12 Dc in each dc around. [42 sts]

Round 13 *Inv dec, dc in next 5 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 14 *Inv dec, dc in next 4 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 15 *Inv dec, dc in next 3 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 16 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Stuff the head.

Round 17 *Inv dec, dc in next dc; rep from * 5 times more. [12 sts]

Round 18 (Inv dec) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail, thread through remaining stitches to close and weave in ends.

BODY

Using cobalt blue yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next dc, 1dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 2 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Rounds 5-8 Dc in each dc around. [24 sts]

Fasten off.

Round 9 Join yellow yarn in the first st, dc in each dc around. [24 sts]

Round 10 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Stuff the body.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc in the loop. [7 sts]

Rounds 2-4 Dc in each dc around. [7 sts]

Fasten off.

Round 5 Join yellow yarn in the first st, dc in each dc around. [7 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Flatten arms.

FEET (MAKE 2)

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc in the loop. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Round 3 Dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Round 4 (Inv dec) 5 times. [5 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Thread a long tail through the centre of the foot and flatten.

EARS

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 3dc in the loop. [3 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [6 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next dc, dc in next dc; rep from * twice more. [9 sts]

Round 4 Dc in each dc around. [9 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Flatten the ears.

TAIL

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc in the loop. [7 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each dc around. [7 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

BOW

Using red yarn, ch6.

Round 1 Dc in the second ch from the hook and the next 3 ch, 3dc in the last ch, rotate to work along other side of starting ch, dc in next 4 ch. [11 sts]

Round 2 Dc in the next 5 dc, 3dc in the next dc, dc in the next 5 dc. [13 sts]

Round 3 Dc in the next 6 dc, 3dc in next dc, leave rem sts unworked. [9 sts]



Cute kitten

Fasten off and thread tail through the centre of the bow, wind round several times and secure at the back. Weave in ends.

BOW CENTRE

Using red yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc in the loop, ss to the first st to join. [5 sts]

Fasten off and sew to the centre of the bow, weave in ends.

FACIAL FEATURES

NOSE

Using yellow stranded cotton, mark a point at the centre of the head and make a series of horizontal backstitches back and forth between the same two points.

EYES

With dark brown stranded cotton, mark a point about three stitches away from each side of the nose, and make a series of vertical backstitches back and forth between the same two points.

WHISKERS

With dark brown stranded cotton, mark a point three stitches away from each eye. Make a horizontal backstitch two stitches in length.

Leave a one-stitch vertical gap and repeat the same process for the top and bottom whiskers.

CHEEKS

Glue the pink brads onto cheeks.

TO FINISH

Sew the head and body together.

Sew on arms, feet, ears and tail.

Place the bow at the top left of the head and stitch in place.

To make the overall straps, thread a strand of cobalt blue yarn through the tapestry needle and sew a loop from the front to the back of each arm.

APPLE

Using red yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 5dc in loop. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) repeat around. [15 dc]

Rounds 4-6 Dc in each st around.

Round 7 (Inv dec, 1dc) repeat around. [10 dc]



The head, body, limbs, ears and tail are all worked separately and joined at the end.

Round 8 (Inv dec) 5 times.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Thread yarn through to the top of the apple, make 1 backstitch, and go back down to the bottom.

Gently tug the end of the yarn to make an indentation.

Fasten off.

LEAF

Using green yarn, ch4.

Dc in second ch from hook and in the next 2 sts.

Fasten off.

Stitch onto the top of the apple.

Leave a long end for the stem.

Thread tail back up to the top and trim excess. Add a dab of glue to the stem to stiffen it and make it more lifelike.



Hello Kitty's trademark bright red bow is always worn near her left ear. So pretty.



If you want to make a basket for Kitty's apple, you'll find a pattern in Mei Li Lee's book.



This super-cute cat pattern is from *Hello Kitty Crochet*, by Mei Li Lee, published by Quirk Books (rrp £11.99, ISBN 9781594747083). www.quirkbooks.com

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Stripy pooch



SILLY SAUSAGE

Meet Frank, the most adorable rainbow pooch the world's ever seen. By Becky Garratt.

Stripy pooch



DOUBLE
CROCHET



DK
WEIGHT



3MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- Robin DK (100% acrylic, 100g/300m), 1 ball of Silver (027) for pads of feet, 1 ball of each: Red (042) Turquoise (281) Fiesta (064) Lilac White (115) Purple (017) Acid Yellow (060) Jaffa (063) Cordial (162)
- OR oddments of yarn from your stash
- An oddment of black DK yarn
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Toy stuffing

For yarn stockists, contact
TB Ramsden 01943 872264
www.tbramsden.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

33cm (13in) long
14cm (5½in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

A migurumi that's so cute it hurts? We're not even sorry. Look at his sweet puppy face. His name is Frank (short for Frankfurter), and he's one fine stash-busting, Technicolor dream dog. How could anyone resist that pointy snout and those stubby little legs? Simply gather together all of your DK-weight yarn leftovers, or pick some new colours that you love to match our design here, and work double crochet stitches in a spiral to make Becky Garratt's rainbow Dachshund. The best thing about using up odd yarns is that your colourful hound will be totally unique. Of course, you could hook him in just one colour, but we don't think he'd look quite so adorable without his multicoloured dream coat...

NOTES

You may find it helps to put a marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up as you work.

Silver is used for the pads of the feet. All the remaining colours are used at random for the rest of the dog.

C HEAD

Start with a dark colour or black for the first 2 rounds to make a nose.

Make a magic loop.

4dc into the ring, ss to the first dc to join. [4 sts]

Round 1 (RS) 2dc in each stitch. [8 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each st.

Round 3 (1dc, 2dc in next st) twice, 4dc. [10 sts]

Round 4 Dc in each st.

Round 5 2dc, 2dc in each of next 5 sts, 3dc. [15 sts]

Round 6 Dc in each st.

Round 7 4dc, 2dc in each of next 8 sts, 3dc. [23 sts]

Round 8 Dc in each st.

Round 9 7dc, 2dc in each of next 12 sts, 4dc. [35 sts]

Rounds 10-16 Dc in each st.

Round 17 (5dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 18 (4dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [25 sts]

Round 19 (3dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [20 sts]

Round 20 (2dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [15 sts]

Stuff the head.

Round 21 (1dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [10 sts]

Round 22 (Dc2tog) 5 times. [5 sts]
Fasten off.

NECK

Ch31, ss to the first ch to join, being careful not to twist.

Rounds 1-4 Dc in each st. [33 sts]
Fasten off.

BODY

Make a magic loop.

5dc into the ring, ss to the first dc to join. [5 sts]

Round 1 (RS) 2dc in each st. [10 sts]

Round 2 (1dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [15 sts]

Round 3 (2dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [20 sts]

Round 4 (3dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [25 sts]

Round 5 (4dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 6 (5dc, 2dc in next st) 5 times. [35 sts]

Rounds 7-51 Dc in each st.

Round 52 (5dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 53 (4dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [25 sts]

Round 54 (3dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [20 sts]

Round 55 (2dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [15 sts]

Stuff the body.

Round 56 (1dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [10 sts]

Round 57 (Dc2tog) 5 times. [5 sts]
Fasten off.

LEGS (MAKE 4)

Work Rounds 1-4 in Silver, then change to random colours as before.

Ch4.

Round 1 (RS) Beginning in the second ch from the hook, 2dc, 2dc in the last st, turn to work along other side of the foundation chain, dc in same st as those just worked, 1dc, 2dc in the last st. [8 sts]

Round 2 2dc in the first st, 2dc, 2dc in each of the next 2 sts, 2dc, 2dc in the last st. [12 sts]

Round 3 2dc in the first st, 3dc, 2dc in the next st, 1dc, 2dc in the next st, 4dc, 2dc in the last st. [16 sts]

Round 4 1dc, 2dc in the next st, 4dc, 2dc in the next st, 2dc, 2dc in the next st, 5dc, 2dc in the last st.

[20 sts]

Stripy pooch

Round 5 Dc in the back loop only of each st.

Round 6 Dc in each st.

Round 7 5dc, (dc2tog) 5 times, 5dc. [15 sts]

Rounds 8-12 Dc in each st.

Fasten off.

For 2 of the legs, rejoin the yarn into the front centre stitch.

For the other 2 legs, rejoin the yarn into the back centre stitch.

Continue working back and forth in rows:

Rows 13-15 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 8dc, turn. [8 sts]

Row 16 Ch1, skip first st, 7dc, turn. [7 sts]

Row 17 Ch1, skip first st, 6dc, turn. [6 sts]

Row 18 Ch1, skip first st, 5dc, turn. [5 sts]

Fasten off.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Ch11.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each following ch to end, turn. [10 sts]

Rows 2 and 3 Ch1, 10dc, turn.

Row 4 2dc in each of the first 2 sts, 6dc, 2dc in each of the last 2 sts, turn. [14 sts]

Rows 5 and 6 Ch1, 14dc, turn.

Row 7 Ch1, skip the first st, dc in each st to end, turn. [13 sts]

Repeat the last row a further 10 times. [3 sts]

Fasten off.

TAIL

Ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 3dc in the second ch from the hook and continue to work in the round. [3 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st. [6 sts]

Rounds 3 and 4 Dc in each st.

Round 5 2dc, 2dc in the next st, 3dc. [7 sts]

Round 6 3dc, 2dc in the next st, 3dc. [8 sts]

Round 7 3dc, 2dc in the next st, 4dc. [9 sts]

Round 8 4dc, 2dc in the next st, 4dc. [10 sts]

Round 9 Dc in each st.

Fasten off.



Use Silver for the pads of Frank's feet. His legs are wider at the base so he can stand.



It's a good idea to use a darker shade for the tip of the snout to form Frank's nose.

TO FINISH

Stuff the legs and pin to the body to make sure Frank stands correctly, positioning the 'flaps' at the top of the legs on the outside of the body. Sew in place.

Stuff the tail and sew to the body.

Use black yarn to sew the eyes onto the head, using the photo above as a guide. Sew the ears to the head.

Position the head inside the neck 'ring', so that it will be at the correct angle once the base of the neck is sewn to the body.

Sew the head to the neck at the top, then stuff the neck and sew it to the body.

SIMPLY PURR-FECT

Every cat lover will want this adventurous mini moggy, designed by Cara Medus.



Stripy kitty



YOU WILL NEED

- Sublime, Egyptian Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/105m)
1 ball of each: Tarragon (388), Orange Blossom (330), Cornelia (329) and Peony (326)
 - A 3mm crochet hook
 - Polyester toy stuffing
 - Plastic granules for toy stuffing (available from fredaldous.co.uk)
 - Stranded cotton in white and brown
 - Black seed beads
- For yarn stockists contact
Sublime 01924 369666

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 7cm (2¾in) long

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

This stripy kitten uses just small amounts of yarn and can be made in any colour combination – if you don't have these exact colours in your stash, be experimental. You could make several in different combos. Quick and easy to make, it's an ideal project for when you're out and about, and it would be a perfect bag charm when it's done.

C HEAD

Using Orange Blossom, make a magic loop, ch1, and work 6 dc into the loop. Ss to the first ch to join.

Round 1 Ch1, 2dc in each of the 6 dc, ss to the first ch to join. [12 sts]

Round 2 Ch1, (2dc in the first st, 1 dc) 6 times, ss to the first ch to join. [18 sts]

Round 3 Ch1, (2dc in the first st, 2dc) 6 times, ss to the first ch to join. [24 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, dc in each st, ss to the first ch to join.

EARS

Next round Ch1, 8dc, 3dc for ear, turn.

Next round* Ch1, dc2tog, 1 dc, turn.

Next round Ch1, dc2tog, turn.

Next round Ch1, dc, turn, ss 3 down side of ear to cont round and dc into same st as third dc on first row of ear.**

Next round 3dc, 3dc for second ear, turn.

Rep from * to **, 8dc, ss to the first ch to join. [26 sts – an extra st worked into the bottom row of each ear]

Next round Ch1, 9dc, pick up 2 sts at the back of the ears by inserting hook around the post of a dc st in the first row of the ear and dc, and then repeating to make the second st, 5dc and pick up 2 sts behind ears, 8dc, ss

to the first ch to join. [26 sts]

Next round Ch1, dc in each st, ss to the first ch to join.

Next round Ch1, dc (dc2tog, 2dc) 6 times, dc, ss to the first ch to join. [20 sts]

Next round Ch1, (dc2tog, 1 dc) 6 times, dc2tog, ss to the first ch to join. [13 sts]

Next round Ch1, (dc2tog) 6 times, dc, ss to the first ch to join. [7 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

Stuff using polyester toy stuffing and sew up the remaining hole.

BODY

NOTE Body is worked starting at the tail end.

Using Orange Blossom, make a magic loop, ch1, 6dc into the loop. Ss to the first ch to join.

Round 1 Ch1, dc into each st. Change to Cornelia for the ss to the first ch to join and next round.

Round 2 Ch1, 2dc into each st. Change to Tarragon for the ss to the first ch to join and next round. [12 sts]

Continue to work the following rounds by alternating colours in the order as set, changing to the new colour for the ss at the end of the round.

Round 3 Ch1, (2dc in the first st, dc) 6 times, ss to the first ch to join. [18 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, (2dc in the first st, 2dc) 6 times, ss to the first ch to join. [24 sts]

Round 5 Ch1, (2dc in the first st, 5dc) 4 times, ss to the first ch to join. [28 sts]

Work another 5 rounds of 28dc.

Next round Ch1, (dc2tog, 2dc) 7 times,

The moggy is made in sections that are sewn together.



Stripy kitty

Turn to page 128 to learn how to change yarn colours.



ss to the first ch to join. [21 sts]

Next round Ch1, 21dc, ss to the first ch to join.

Next round Ch1, (dc2tog, dc) 7 times, ss to the first ch to join. [14 sts]

Next round Ch1, 14dc, ss to the first ch to join.

Next round Ch1, (dc2tog) 7 times, ss to the first ch to join. [7 sts]

Next round Ch1, 7dc, ss to the first ch to join.

Fasten off.

Stuff using plastic granules and sew up the hole.

TAIL

Using Tarragon, ch11, 10dc starting in second ch from hook. Turn. [10 sts]

Next row Ch1, dc all round.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail of yarn.

Stitch together the long sides and attach the end of the tail just above the centre back of the body.

LEGS (MAKE 4)

Using Cornelia, make a magic loop, ch1,

6dc into the loop. Pull the loop closed. [6 sts]

Work in a spiral without closing off the round with a ss.

Next row Dc all round.

Change to Orange Blossom.

Next 3 rows Dc all round.

Ss to the next st to join and fasten off.

Push loose ends inside leg, leaving one long end to sew to body.

There is no need to stuff the legs. Sew each one to the underside of the body.

TO FINISH

Sew the head to the body.

Using 2 strands of brown stranded cotton, make a nose with a series of straight stitches in the shape of a triangle. Stitch this over the central starting point of the head. Backstitch a mouth. Sew long straight stitches on either side of the mouth for whiskers. Using 2 strands of white stranded cotton, work a circle of small chain stitches in the position of the eye. Add a black seed bead onto the needle and



Try filling your kitty with catnip to keep a real-life cat amused – she'll love it!

stitch in the centre of the eye.

Using Cornelia and Tarragon, make straight stitches on either side of the head and between the ears to give the impression of stripes.

Using Peony, make a ch long enough to fit around the neck as a collar. Fasten off and use the ends to secure the collar to the neck.



TAKO-YAKI

Meet little brothers Tako-chan and Yaki-chan, the cutest pair of bears around, by Mei Li Lee.

Bear brothers



YOU WILL NEED

- 4ply yarn in dark grey or brown
- A 2mm (US 4 steel) hook
- Tapestry needle
- 4 x 8mm black round brads
- A 5mm oval doll's nose
- A 3mm oval doll's nose
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Small pieces of felt in pink and white for cheeks and eyes
- Craft glue

MEASUREMENTS

Tako-chan: approx 10cm (4in) tall
Yaki-chan: approx 8cm (3in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

Inv dec Invisible decrease: insert your hook into the front loop of the first st. Without putting the yarn round the hook, bring the hook to the front of the work and insert the hook into the front loop of the next st (3 loops on hook). Yrh and draw through all 3 loops. For a full list, see page 130.



This is an original pattern by Mei Li Lee of AmiguruMEI (www.amigurumei.com). You may not claim it as your own, reprint it, sell or distribute it, or sell items made from it.

Who can resist these amigurumi cuties? There's double the sweetness with this project.

Take on a new toy challenge and hook cookie-coloured bear cub brothers Tako-chan and Yaki-chan.

C TAKO-CHAN

HEAD

Make a magic loop, ch1, 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

Round 1 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 2 *2dc in next st, 1dc; rep from * another 5 times. [18 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [24 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in next st, dc in next 3 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [36 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [42 sts]

Round 7 *2dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [48 sts]

Rounds 8-14 Dc in each st around. [48 sts]

Round 15 *Inv dec, dc in next 6 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [42 sts]

Round 16 *Inv dec, dc in next 5 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [36 sts]

Round 17 *Inv dec, dc in next 4 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 18 *Inv dec, dc in next 3 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [24 sts]

Round 19 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [18 sts]

Stuff the head.

Round 20 *Inv dec, dc in next st; rep from * another 5 times. [12 sts]

Round 21 Inv dec all around. [6 sts]

Fasten off and thread tail of yarn through remaining stitches to close. Do not cut off the yarn.

EYE INDENTATIONS 01

With tapestry needle, bring rem yarn out to a stitch on left side of head, positioning it at the bottom of Round 11. Make one horizontal stitch and bring thread back down to bottom of head. Gently tug on yarn to create a slight indentation. Now repeat with the right side of the head – there should be 8 sts in between the indentations.

Fasten off ends at bottom of the head.

FACIAL FEATURES 02

Cut out 2 small half-moons of white felt to match the size of the black brads.

Glue them near the indentations. Add glue onto the black brads and pop each of them into the st with the indentation. Centre the oval doll's nose between the eyes and glue on. Cut out 2 small circles of pink felt and glue them onto the cheeks.

BODY

Make a magic loop, ch 1, 6dc in loop. [6sts]

Round 1 Ch1, 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 2 *2dc in next st, 1dc; rep from * another 5 times. [18 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [24 sts]

Rounds 4-8 Dc in each st around. [24 sts]

Round 9 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [18 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail end for sewing up.

Stuff the body.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop, ch1, 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

Rounds 1-5 Dc in each st around. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail end for sewing up.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop, ch1, 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

Round 1 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Rounds 2 and 3 Dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 4 Inv dec all around. [6 sts]

Rounds 5 and 6 Dc in each st around. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail end for sewing up.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop, ch1, 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

Round 1 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail end for sewing up.

TAIL

Make a magic loop, ch1, 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

Round 1 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *Inv dec all around. [6 sts]

Bear brothers

Fasten off, leaving a long tail end for sewing up.

TO FINISH

Pin pieces in place to gauge where each part should go. Sew body onto the head, sew on the ears and arms.

03 Make moveable legs as follows: Thread long yarn end from one of the legs through a darning needle. Pierce body where this leg will be attached and bring it out on the other side where the other leg will go. Make a horizontal st and go back to the other leg. Remember not to tug too tightly. Do this one more time. Bring the needle out through the body and trim excess. Rep entire process with long yarn end from the other leg.

Position tail at a spot that will help Tako-chan sit on his own. Sew in place.

YAKI-CHAN

HEAD

Make a magic loop, ch1, 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

Round 1 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 2 *2dc in next st, 1dc; rep from * another 5 times. [18 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [24 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in next st, dc in next 3 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [36 sts]

Rounds 6-11 Dc in each st around. [36 sts]

Round 12 *Inv dec, dc in next 4 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 13 *Inv dec, dc in next 3 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [24 sts]

Round 14 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [18 sts]
Stuff the head.

Round 15 *Inv dec, dc in next st; rep from * another 5 times. [12 sts]

Round 16 Inv dec all around. [6 sts]

Fasten off and thread tail of yarn through rem stitches to close. Do not cut off yarn.

EYE INDENTATIONS

Follow instructions for Tako-chan, but position them below Round 8, with 6 sts between each indentation.

FACIAL FEATURES

Follow instructions for Tako-chan, gluing on brads, nose and felt pieces.

BODY

Make a magic loop, ch1, 5dc in loop. [5 sts]

Round 1 2dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Round 2 *2dc in next st, 1dc; rep from * another 4 times. [15 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 4 times. [20 sts]

Rounds 4-7 Dc in each st around. [20 sts]

Round 8 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 4 times. [15 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail end for sewing up.
Stuff the body.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop, ch1, 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

Rounds 1-4 Dc in each st around. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail end for sewing up.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop, ch1, 5dc in loop. [5 sts]

Round 1 2dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Rounds 2-3 Dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Round 4 (Inv dec) 4 times, dc in next 2 sts. [6 sts]

Round 5 Dc in each st around. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail end for sewing up.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Make a magic loop, ch1, 5dc in loop. [5 sts]

Round 1 2dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail end for sewing up.

TAIL

Make a magic loop, ch1, 5dc in loop. [5 sts]

Round 1 2dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Round 3 *Inv dec all around. [5 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail end for sewing up.

TO FINISH

Follow instructions given for Tako-chan.



Pink piggy

NEW TO CROCHET?

You can make this pig using just chains, slip stitch and double crochet shaping.



PABLO THE PIG

Put your shaping skills to good use and make this super-cute little chap by Cara Medus.

Pink piggy



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Creative Cotton Aran (100% cotton, 50g/85m)
1 ball of Rose (00)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - Old tights
 - Polypropylene granules for toy stuffing (from www.fredaldous.co.uk)
 - 2 x 6mm brown buttons (from www.gregory-knopp.co.uk)
 - Small piece of white felt
 - Brown stranded cotton
- For yarn stockists, contact Rico www.rico-design.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

8.5x9.5cm (3¼x3¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.



This cute and cheeky little piggy is a brilliant way to practise your amigurumi skills. He's worked in double crochet in the round, with simple increasing and decreasing stitches to create the ball shape – and that's it! A perfect starter project for budding crocheters, this adorable amigurumi makes a great gift for anyone of any age – who could resist him?

C BODY

Ch2, leaving a long tail.

Round 1 6dc in first ch, ss to first dc to join. [6 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 2dc in each st, ss to first dc. [12 sts]

Round 3 Ch1, (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times, ss to first dc. [18 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times, ss to first dc. [24 sts]

Round 5 Ch1, (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times, ss to first dc. [30 sts]

Round 6 Ch1, (2dc in next st, 4dc) 6 times, ss to first dc. [36 sts]

Round 7 Ch1, (2dc in next st, 8dc) 4 times, ss to first dc. [40 sts]

Rounds 8-16 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss to first dc.

Round 17 Ch1, (dc2tog, 8dc) 4 times, ss to first dc. [36 sts]

Round 18 Ch1, (dc2tog, 4dc) 6 times, ss to first dc. [30 sts]

Round 19 Ch1, (dc2tog, 3dc) 6 times, ss to first dc. [24 sts]

Round 20 Ch1, (dc2tog, 2dc) 6 times, ss to first dc. [18 sts]

Stuff the body by putting the toe of one leg of the tights into the body and filling with polypropylene granules. Tie off the tights firmly and cut off.

Round 21 Ch1, (dc2tog, 1dc) 6 times, ss to first dc. [12 sts]

Round 22 Ch1, (dc2tog) 6 times, ss to first dc. [6 sts]

Fasten off and use the tail to sew up the remaining hole.

Use the starting tail to sew over any hole that might be left at the beginning, then weave in ends.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Ch6, leaving a long tail.

Row 1 5dc beg in second ch from hook, turn. [5 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc2tog, 3dc, turn. [4 sts]

Row 3 Ch1, dc2tog, 2dc, turn. [3 sts]

Row 4 Ch1, dc2tog, 1dc, turn. [2 sts]

Row 5 Ch1, dc2tog.

Fasten off.

Use the long tail to sew each ear in place according to the photograph, weave in ends.

TAIL

Ch7, leaving a long tail.

Row 1 2dc in each st beg with second ch from hook.

Fasten off.

Use the long starting tail to sew the tail to the pig at centre back, then weave in ends.

SNOUT

Ch4, leaving a long tail.

Round 1 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in next ch, 4dc in next ch. Turn work 90 degrees to work in remaining loops on the other side of the foundation ch, 1dc in next ch, 3dc in next ch, ss to first dc. [10 sts]

Round 2 Ch1, (1dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in each of next 2 sts) twice, ss to first dc.

Fasten off.

Use the long tail to sew the snout to the centre front, weave in ends.

EYES

Cut 2 small circles of white felt and sew a button in the centre of each, securing to the body with a strand of embroidery cotton.

TO FINISH

With 3 strands of brown embroidery cotton, sew 2 long straight stitches on the snout, and a mouth, using the photograph opposite as a guide.

INCY WINCY SPIDER

Kids who love nature and wildlife will adore Emma Friedlander-Collins' friendly spider.



Smiley spider



YOU WILL NEED

- DK yarn, small quantity of black
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Removable stitch marker
- Toy stuffing
- Silver embroidery thread
- Embroidery needle
- Tapestry needle

MEASUREMENTS

3cm (1¼in) excluding legs

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

Spiders: the world is divided. Some people welcome them into their homes, others freeze in terror at the sight of them. We think this little guy is pretty darned cute. He's got a tubby round body, sticky-out legs and a smiley face. What's not to love?

A very easy amigurumi project to make, he'll be hooked up in no time, and that makes him a perfect project to practise your amigurumi skills if you're new to the craft. Plus, he'll use up a small amount of yarn you'll find easily enough in your stash. And, of course, he doesn't have to be made in black – there are varieties of spider around the world that come in all sorts of colours. Peacock spiders are a bright blue, while some are golden, green, yellow or red.

C BODY

Round 1 Make a magic ring and secure with ss. Work 6dc into ring, ss in first dc to join, pm. [6 sts]

Working in spirals and using a stitch marker to indicate beginning of the round, continue as follows:

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next st, dc in next st; rep from * 5 more times. [18 sts]

Round 4: Dc in each st around.

Round 5 *Dc2tog, dc in next st; rep from * 5 more times. [12 sts]

Stuff the spider and continue as follows:

Round 6 *Dc2tog; rep from * 5 times more. [6 sts]

Fasten off and close the end.

LEGS (MAKE 8)

Make Ch8.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO FINISH

Sew the legs to the body. Weave in all loose ends.

Use the silver embroidery thread to stitch a little face on and pull the thread up through the top of his body to make a long thread to dangle it from.



The twinkly eyes are made with a few stitches in silver embroidery thread.



All you need to do to make each leg is chain 8 stitches and attach the chains to the body.



Make a hanging chain with silver thread. To hang it from a hook, make a loop at the top.



This smiling spider is taken from *Crochet Dress-Up* by Emma Friedlander-Collins. Packed with fun costumes for you to crochet for the kids, it's published by CICO Books (£12.99). Photos by Terry Benson. www.cicobooks.co.uk

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Baby elephant



STOMP, STOMP!

So sweet and simple, Brigitte Read's little elephant is full of character.

Baby elephant



YOU WILL NEED

- 25g of any grey aran yarn
- An oddment of pink DK yarn
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- 2 x 7.5mm black safety eyes
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Tapestry needle

MEASUREMENTS

9x5.5cm (3½x2¼in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.



To finish him off, don't forget to tie a knot in his sweet little tail!

Worked with straightforward double crochet stitches, this charming little elephant is so much fun to crochet. We think it might be fun to experiment and make a multi-coloured herd!

Designer Brigitte Read says: "An elephant baby is 22 months in the making and can weigh 120 kilos at birth. This baby elephant appears in only an hour and is as light as a feather(ish!). Silky soft and made all in one, with the his big ears added at the end, this simple crochet project offers a lot, for a little effort."

See more of Brigitte's designs at www.littlegreen.typepad.com.

BODY

With grey, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc into the loop. [7 sts]

Round 2 2dc into each st. [14 sts]

Round 3 (1dc, 2dc into next st) 7 times. [21 sts]

Round 4 (2dc, 2dc into next st) 7 times. [28 sts]

Rounds 5-7 Dc in each st.

TRUNK

Round 8 Dc into each of the first 4 sts, ch3.

With RS facing and the ch-3 behind the dc just worked, dc into each of the same 4 dc from Round 8 again.

Cont the round by working 3dc into the ch-3 loop, ready to start the beg of the next round of the trunk with the 4dc again. [7sts]

Continue working on these 7 sts for another 8 rounds.

Fasten off, using the tail of yarn to sew up the end of the trunk.

Rejoin grey into the next st of Round 8 after the 4 trunk sts.

Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st to end, ss into base of trunk.

Fasten off.

LEGS

FIRST LEG

With RS facing, join grey into next available st after the trunk.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc, ch5.

Round 2 With RS facing and the ch-5

behind the dc just worked, dc into each of the same 6 dc again.

Cont the round by working 5dc into the ch-5 loop, ready to start the beg of the next round with the 6dc again. [11 sts] Continue working on these sts for another 4 rounds.

Fasten off.

Next round Join pink and dc in each st.

Fasten off and use the tail of yarn to sew the remaining sts closed.

OTHER LEGS

Work the other 3 legs in the same way as the first, each time joining the yarn in the next available st of the round.

EYES

Secure the safety eyes using the photo on page 45 as a guide.

TUMMY

With grey, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc into each st. [12 sts]

Round 3 (1dc, 2dc into next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 (2dc, 2dc into next st) 6 times. **Fasten off.** [24 sts]

ASSEMBLING THE ELEPHANT

With the legs pointing upwards, push the tummy in so that it sits underneath the legs, filling the space in between.

Start sewing the edges of the legs and the trunk to the tummy piece to close. Before sewing up completely, stuff the body of the elephant.

EARS (MAKE 4)

Make 2 with grey yarn and 2 with pink yarn.

Ch7, 9dtr in the fourth ch from the hook, ss into the first ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail on the grey ears.

Sew each pink ear on top of a grey one and use the long tail on the grey ears to sew each ear to the body, using the image as a guide.

TAIL

Secure a piece of yarn to the elephant's bottom, tie a knot in the end.



TRAVELLING TRIO

Make Becky Garratt's menagerie of super-cute customisable critters.

Animal trio



DOUBLE
CROCHET



ARAN, DK
WEIGHT



4MM
5MM

YOU WILL NEED

- Drops, Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Light Pink (57)
 - Yarn B Light Ice Blue (29)
 - Yarn C Light Mint Green (21)
 - 2 balls of each:
 - Yarn D Light Grey (23)
 - Yarn E Dark Beige (26)
 - 3 balls of:
 - Yarn F Off White (17)
 - Small amount of black DK cotton for the features
 - Toy stuffing
 - Buttons
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - A 5mm (US H/8) hook
- For yarn stockists, contact
Wool Warehouse 01926 882818
www.woolwarehouse.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Each doll measures 32cm (12½in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

Make all three of these utterly charming amigos, or mix and match the dress and features that you like best to create a lovable cat, bunny or bear with the prettiest pastels in a soft cotton yarn.

NOTE

The bunny ears, bear ears and front of the head are worked in the amigurumi method (work in a continuous spiral without closing off each round with a slip stitch). The body front is worked directly onto the head in rows and then the legs are worked directly onto the body. The process is repeated for the back of the doll and the 2 pieces are stuffed and sewn together.

C BACK/FRONT (MAKE 2 PER TOY) HEAD

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn D, E or F, ch7.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in 2nd ch from hook and next 4 ch, 3dc in last ch, turn to work along the other side of the ch, dc in next 4 ch, 2dc in last ch. [14 sts]

Round 2 Dc in next 5 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next dc. [17 sts]

Round 3 2dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 6 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next dc. [21 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 6 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc; rep from * omitting last dc. [25 sts]

Round 5 Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 7 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 7 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc. [29 sts]

Round 6 Dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 8 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 8 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc. [33 sts]

Round 7 Dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 9 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 6 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 9 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc. [37 sts]

Round 8 Dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 10 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 7 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 10 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc. [41 sts]

Round 9 Dc in next 5 dc, 2dc in next

dc, dc in next 11 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 8 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 11 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc. [45 sts]

Round 10 Dc in next 6 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 12 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 9 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 12 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc. [49 sts]

BODY

NOTE The body is worked directly onto the head working in rows.

Row 1 (RS) Ss to next 12 dc, ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in next 4 dc, turn. [4 sts]

Row 2 (WS) Ch1, dc in each dc across, turn. [4 sts]

Row 3 Ch1, 2dc in first dc, dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in last dc, turn. [6 sts]

Row 4 Ch1, 2dc in first 2 dc, dc in next 2 dc, 2dc into last 2 dc, turn. [10 sts]

Rows 5 and 6 Ch1, dc in each dc across, turn. [10 sts]

Row 7 Ch1, 2dc in first dc, dc in next 8 dc, 2dc into last dc, turn. [12 sts]

Row 8-22 Ch1, dc in each dc across, turn. [12 sts]
Do not fasten off.

LEGS

NOTE The legs are worked directly onto the body working in rows.

FIRST LEG

Row 1 Ss to first 3 dc, ch1, dc in same dc and each of next 2 dc, turn. [3 sts]

Rows 2-20 Ch1, dc in each dc across, turn. [3 sts]

Row 21 Ch1, dc in first dc, tr in next dc, dc in last dc. [3 sts]

Fasten off.

SECOND LEG

Row 1 Skip next 3 dc of Row 22 of body, join yarn in next dc with a ss, ch1, dc in same dc and each of next 2 dc, turn. [3 sts]

Rows 2-21 Rep Rows 2-21 of first leg.
Fasten off.

ARMS (MAKE 4 PER TOY, 2 FOR EACH ARM)

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn D, E or F, ch4.

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook and next 2 ch, turn. [3 sts]

Rows 2-15 Ch1, dc in each dc across, turn. [3 sts]

Animal trio

Row 16 Ch1, dc in first dc, tr in next dc, dc in last dc. [3 sts]

Fasten off.

Seam two pieces together for each arm and add toy stuffing.

FEATURES

CAT EARS (MAKE 4, 2 FOR EACH EAR)

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn D, ch5.

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook and next 3 ch, turn [4 sts]

Rows 2 and 3 Ch1, dc in each dc across, turn. [4 sts]

Rows 4-6 Ch1, skip first dc, dc in each dc across, turn. [1 st at end of Row 6]

Fasten off.

Seam two pieces together for each ear.

BUNNY EARS (MAKE 2)

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn F, make a magic loop.

Round 1 4dc in loop, turn. [4 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [8 sts]

Round 3 (1dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) 4 times. [12 sts]

Rounds 4-10 Dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 11 (Dc in next dc, dc2tog) 4 times. [8 sts]

Round 12 Dc in each dc around. [8 sts]

Fasten off.

Pinch together the base of the ears to create a crease and use the tail end of yarn to stitch into place.

BEAR EARS (MAKE 2)

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn E, make a magic loop.

Round 1 5dc in loop, turn. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Round 3 (1dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) 5 times. [15 sts]

Round 4 (1dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc) 5 times. [20 sts]

Fasten off.

CHEEKS (MAKE 2 PER TOY)

Using a 5mm hook and Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 4dc in loop, turn. [4 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around, ss to next st. [8 sts]

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Using the photo on page 47 as a guide, embroider a face onto the doll using black cotton. Sew the cheeks onto the face using Yarn A.

Sew the two body pieces together using matching yarn, placing the ears and arms in as you go round and adding a little stuffing.

DRESS

FRONT/BACK (MAKE 2 PER TOY)

For a striped dress, start with Yarn A but then alternate between Yarn A and Yarn F every two rows.

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn B, C, or A, ch17.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across, turn [16 sts]

Rows 2-18 Ch1, dc in each dc across, turn. [16 sts]

If adding pocket, replace Row 9 with the following Row and then continue with Rows 10-18.

Row 9 for pocket Ch1, dc in first 5 dc, dc in back loop only of next 6 dc, dc in next 5 dc, turn. [16 sts]

Row 19 Ch1, skip first dc, dc in next 13 dc, dc2tog, turn. [14 sts]

Row 20 Ch1, skip first dc, dc in next 5 dc, dc2tog, dc in next 4 dc, dc2tog, turn. [11 sts]

Rows 21 and 22 Ch1, dc in each dc across, turn. [11 sts]

Do not fasten off.

STRAPS

Work straps on just the front or back piece of dress. If working striped dress, use Yarn A only.

Rows 1-6 Ch1, dc in next 2 dc, turn. [2 sts]

Fasten off.

Rejoin yarn with RS facing to work in last 2 sts at top of dress and repeat Rows 1-6 for the other strap.

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Sew the side seams of the front and back dress pieces together, leaving armholes on the decrease rows.

Sew the straps to the corresponding sts on the opposite side.

TOP FRILL (MAKE 1)

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn F, ch13.

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across, turn. [12 sts]

Row 2 Ch3, 2tr in st at base of ch, ss to next dc, (3tr in next dc, ss in next dc) 5 times.

Fasten off.

Pin onto neckline of dress and sew to secure.



The legs are worked directly onto the body in rows, then seamed together later.



Add a bit of personality to your dolls with blushing cheeks and oh-so sleepy eyes.

BOTTOM FRILL (MAKE 2)

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn F, ch17.

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook and each ch across, turn [16 sts]

Row 2 Ch3, 2tr in st at base of ch, ss to next dc, (3tr in next dc, ss in next dc) 7 times.

Fasten off.

Pin onto hemline of front and back of dress and sew to secure.

POCKET

With RS of dress facing, join Yarn F with a ss in first free front loop of Row 8 of dress.

Row 1 Ch1, dc in same loop, dc in each of next 5 front loops, turn. [6 sts]

Rows 2-6 Ch1, dc in each dc across, turn.

Fasten off.

Sew sides of the pocket to the dress evenly.

Add buttons to the dress using the photo as a guide.

Place the finished dress onto your toy.

UNDER THE SEA

We just love the beady little eyes on Emma Friedlander-Collins' cute crab!



Cheeky crab



YOU WILL NEED

- DK yarn, small quantity of red
- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- Toy stuffing
- 2 black beads
- Black embroidery thread
- Needle and black sewing thread
- Tapestry needle

MEASUREMENTS

2.5cm (1in) across (excluding claws)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

Shells, rocks, beaches... it's what we think of when we think of summer holidays. And it's what this adorable little crab is used to.

He's very easy to make and requires just a little bit of yarn, so there shouldn't be any need to buy any specially – just rummage around your stash for the perfect ruddy shade. We've used quite a bright red but a more russet colour would do just as well, as would a tweed as some crabs' shells are quite mottled.

We think designer Emma Friedlander-Collins has captured this little sea creature perfectly – he looks so realistic. And she's made him with the sunniest smile we've ever seen on a crustacean – this little guy certainly isn't crabby!

NOTES

The legs and claws are made separately then sewn into the body of the crab later, so when you fasten off, leave long tails for stitching with.

C BODY

Round 1 Make a magic ring and secure with ss. Work 4dc into ring, ss in first dc to join. [4 sts]

Round 2 Ch1, 2dc in each st around, ss in first dc to join. [8 sts]

Round 3 Ch1, *2dc in next st, 1dc in next st; rep from * 3 times more, ss in first dc to join. [12 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, dc in each st around, ss in first dc to join.

Round 5 (Dc2tog) 6 times, ss in first dc to join. [6 sts]

Stuff the body.

Round 6 (Dc2tog) 3 times, ss in first dc to join. [3 sts]

Fasten off and use the tail to close the small opening.

LEGS (MAKE 6)

Ch6.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

CLAWS (MAKE 2)

Ch8, dc in fifth ch from hook, ch1, ss to finish.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.



Stitch on two little black beads to make the crab's dark eyes – or you could use sequins.



The claws are easy to make – simply dc into a chain and stitch to the body.

TO FINISH

Using the long tails, stitch the legs and claws onto the body. Weave the ends in through the legs and into the body, pulling them tightly to give them their shape.

Securely stitch the beads on for eyes and add a few stitches for the mouth.



published by CICO Books (£12.99). Photos by Terry Benson. www.cicobooks.co.uk

This quirky little customer is taken from *Crochet Dress-Up* by Emma Friedlander-Collins, with lots of fun costumes for you to crochet for the kids. It's

NEW
ISSUE!



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OUR BUNNY GIRL IS
A REAL CUTIE

POCKET PALS

Get started on these adorable amigurumi designs
and all your friends will be hooked too!

6
Adorable dolls
to crochet



CHIYO-CHAN

She's cute, she's quirky and she's cool to crochet.
Chiyo-chan, by Mei Li Lee, is our new best friend.



Cute girl



YOU WILL NEED

- 4ply yarn in cream, burgundy, white and dark brown
- A 1.75mm (US 7 steel) hook
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Black sewing thread
- 2 x 4mm black doll's eyes
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Small pieces of felt in pink and white for cheeks and collar
- Craft glue

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 8cm (3in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

Inv dec Invisible decrease: insert your hook into the front loop of the first st. Without putting the yarn round the hook, bring the hook to the front of the work and insert the hook into the front loop of the next st (3 loops on hook). Yrh and draw through all 3 loops. For a full list, see page 130.

Mei Li lee is the expert when it comes to designing adorable amigurumi dolls. Little

Chiyo-chan is just soooo cute with her cheeky expression and bobbed hair.

Using simple double crochet stitches, worked with small crochet hooks, she's made up of several different pieces and then carefully stitched together. Tiny felt cheeks and a collar detail bring Chiyo-chan to life, ready for all sorts of adventures!

C HEAD

Using cream yarn and a 2.5mm hook, make a magic loop, ch1, 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

Round 1 *2dc in next st; rep from * another 5 times. [12 sts]

Round 2 *2dc in next st, 1dc; rep from * another 5 times. [18 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [24 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in next st, dc in next 3 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [36 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [42 sts]

Round 7 *2dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [48 sts]

Rounds 8-14 Dc in each st to end. [48 sts]

Round 15 *Inv dec, dc in next 6 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [42 sts]

Round 16 *Inv dec, dc in next 5 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [36 sts]

Round 17 *Inv dec, dc in next 4 sts; rep

from * another 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 18 *Inv dec, dc in next 3 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [24 sts]

Round 19 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [18 sts]
Stuff the head.

Round 20 *Inv dec, dc in next st; rep from * another 5 times. [12 sts]

Round 21 *Inv dec; rep from * another 5 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off and thread tail of yarn through remaining stitches to close. Do not cut off the thread.

FACE

EYE INDENTATIONS

With a tapestry needle, bring the remaining thread out to a stitch on the left side of the head, positioning it at the bottom of Round 12. Make one horizontal stitch and bring the thread back down to the bottom of the head. Gently tug on the yarn to create a slight indentation.

Now repeat with the right side of the head – there should be 7 stitches in between the indentations.

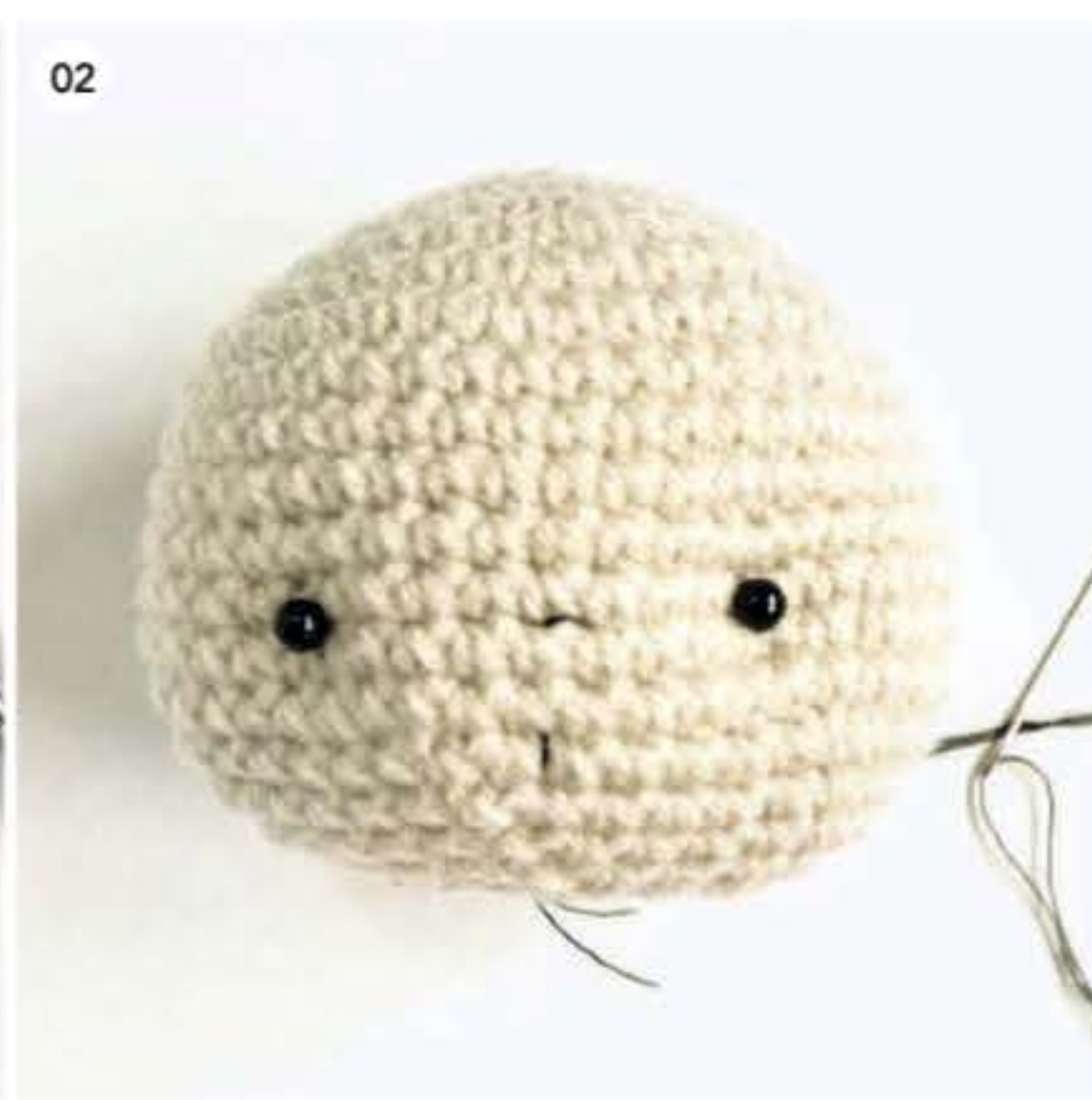
Fasten off ends at the bottom of the head.

FACIAL FEATURES

Add craft glue to doll's eyes and pop them in where the indentations are. With black sewing thread, bring the thread through from the bottom of the doll's head to the centre of the face, between the eyes. Make a small horizontal stitch – this will be the nose.



This is an original pattern by Mei Li Lee of AmiguruMEI (www.amigurumei.com). You may not claim it as your own, reprint it, sell or distribute it, or sell items made from it.



Cute girl

For the mouth, bring the thread through two stitches below the nose and make a vertical stitch. Bring the thread back down to the bottom of the head.

Fasten off ends. 02

BODY

With white yarn and a 2.5mm hook, make a magic loop, ch1, 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

Round 1 *2dc in next st; rep from * another 5 times. [12 sts]

Round 2 *2dc in next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 5 times. [18 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [24 sts]

Rounds 4 and 5 Dc in each st to end. [24 sts]

Round 6 Dc in the front loop of each st to end. [24 sts]

Change yarn colour to cream.

Round 7 Dc in the back loop of each st to end. [24 sts]

Rounds 8 and 9 Dc in each st to end. [24 sts]

Round 10 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [18 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

DRESS

Turn the body upside down.

With 2.5mm hook and burgundy yarn, make a slipknot on your hook. You're going to surface crochet on the body – do this by inserting the hook in between 2 stitches and bringing it out in the next gap between 2 stitches,

from right to left. Yrh and draw the loop through the stitches. Yrh again and bring the yarn through the loops to complete the stitch.

Then continue as follows:

Foundation round Surface crochet dc around each st of Round 10 of the body. [18 sts] 03

Rounds 1 and 2 Dc in each st to end. [18 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 8 times. [27 sts]

Rounds 4-7 Dc in each st to end. [27 sts]

Fasten off and leave a long end for sewing. Thread the yarn through to the opening of the body. Stuff the body.

ARMS

With cream yarn and a 1.75mm hook, make a magic loop, ch1, 8dc in loop. [8 sts]

Rounds 1 and 2 *Dc in each st to end. [8 sts]

Change colour to burgundy.

Rounds 3-6 *Dc in each st to end. [8 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

LEGS

With cream yarn and a 1.75mm hook, make a magic loop, ch1, 8dc in loop. [8 sts]

Rounds 1-4 *Dc in each st to end. [8 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. 04

HAIR

With dark brown yarn and a 2.5mm hook, make a magic loop, ch1, 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

Round 1 *2dc in next st; rep from * another 5 times. [12 sts]

Round 2 *2dc in next st, dc in next st; rep from * another 5 times. [18 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [24 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in next st, dc in next 3 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [36 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [42 sts]

Round 7 *2dc in next st, dc in next 6 sts; rep from * another 5 times. [48 sts]

Rounds 8-10 Dc in each st to end. [48 sts]

Now you're going to work back in forth in rows to give the hair length.

Row 11 Dc in the next 33 sts, turn. [33 sts]

Rows 12-18 Ch1 (does not count as st) 33dc, turn. 05

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Pin the pieces in place to gauge where each part should go.

Sew the body onto the head.

Sew on the arms and legs.

Glue on the hair.

Cut out two small ovals of pink felt and glue them onto the cheeks.

Cut out two half circles of white felt and glue them on as a collar for the dress.





KOKESHI DOLLS

Make a trio of Japanese cuties and their stealthy ninja pal by Tanya Eberhardt.

Kimono girls



DOUBLE
CROCHET



4PLY
WEIGHT



2.5MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- 4ply cotton, 50g each of red, green, pink, white and black
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Stitch markers (optional)
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Stranded cotton (black for the eyes, brown for ninja belt and any colours you like for decorating the dresses)
- Buttons, felt, beads or anything you like for decoration

MEASUREMENTS

8x4cm (3x1½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

We admit it – we're utterly smitten with designer Tanya Eberhardt's collection of Japanese-inspired amigurumi cuties. The dolls are just gorgeous with their bright kimonos, and who wouldn't be won over by this sneaky little ninja?

Traditionally, Kokeshi dolls are a form of Japanese folk art, handmade with wood and beautifully painted. These crochet incarnations are so much fun to make and easy to personalise. Use the doll pattern to make the trio pictured, or adapt it and play around with your own colour choices for unique makes.

C KOKESHI DOLL

BODY

NOTE The body and head are worked as one piece. Choose from red, green or pink yarn for working the body. The white yarn will be joined later for the head.

With colour of your choice, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st. [12 sts]

Round 3 (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 Working in the back loop only, dc in each st around.

Round 5 (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [24 sts]

Rounds 6-11 Dc in each st around.

Round 12 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 13 (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Start stuffing the body with the polyester toy stuffing.

Round 14 (2dc, dc2tog) 3 times. [9 sts]

Continue to stuff the body.

Change to white yarn to start working on the head.

HEAD

Round 1 Working in the front loop only, dc in each st around.

Round 2 (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 3 times. [12 sts]

Round 3 (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 5 (3dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rounds 6-10 Dc in each st around.

Round 11 (3dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 12 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 13 (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Start stuffing the head.

Round 14 (dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Continue to stuff the head.

Fasten off.

HAIR/WIG CAP

With the colour of your choice, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 3 times. [9 sts]

Round 3 (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 3 times. [12 sts]

Round 4 (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 5 (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 6 (3dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rounds 7-10 Dc in each st around, turn. [30 sts]

Now working back and forth in rows:

Row 11 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 22dc, turn, leaving the remaining sts unworked. [22 sts]

Rows 12-14 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc to end, turn.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Using the tail, sew the wig on the head.

BUN

NOTE Make one or two buns according to the style you want your doll to have.

With the colour of your choice, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 3 times. [9 sts]

Round 3 (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 3 times. [12 sts]

Rounds 4-5 Dc in each st around. Stuff the bun.

Round 6 (2dc, dc2tog) 3 times. [9 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Sew the bun securely on to the centre back of the wig cap.

If you choose to make two buns, attach them to the right and left upper middle part of the wig cap.

TO FINISH

Using the stranded cotton and a sharp

Kimono girls

needle, embroider the eyes, embroider chain stitch and add your decorations, using the image as a guide.

NINJA

NOTE Work the body with black yarn, and continue with black yarn up to the end of Round 4 of the head. Change to white yarn for Rounds 5 upwards for the head.

BODY

With black yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st. [12 sts]

Round 3 (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 Working in the back loop only, dc in each st around.

Round 5 (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [24 sts]

Rounds 6-11 Dc in each st around.

Round 12 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 13 (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]
Start stuffing the body with the polyester toy stuffing.

Round 14 (2dc, dc2tog) 3 times. [9 sts]
Continue to stuff the body.

HEAD

Round 1 Working in the front loop only, dc in each st around.

Round 2 (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 3 times. [12 sts]

Round 3 (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 6

times. [24 sts]

Change to white yarn to continue working on the head.

Round 5 (3dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rounds 6-10 Dc in each st around.

Round 11 (3dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 12 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 13 (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]
Start stuffing the head.

Round 14 (dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]
Continue to stuff the head.

Fasten off.

HAIR/WIG CAP

Using black yarn, follow the instructions for the wig cap for the Kokeshi doll.

HEAD DETAIL (MAKE 2)

With black yarn, ch6.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each chain across, turn. [5 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st across.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO FINISH

Fold each of the head detail pieces in half and join the two together in the centre. Sew them securely to the side of the head.

Using the stranded cotton and a sharp needle, embroider eyes and add the brown thread as his belt.



The simpler the better – keep the face straightforward with two stitches for eyes.



It's all in the detail – wind contrasting thread around the buns to help the colours pop.



The hair or wig cap is made separately and then stitched onto the head afterwards.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO WORK CHAIN STITCH



1 Bring needle to the front of the fabric, after securing the thread at the back. Insert needle back into same hole (or very close to it) and pull gently to leave a small loop.



2 Bring needle to the front a little way to the right, making sure the needle passes through the loop. Insert the needle back into the same hole (or very close to it). Pull gently to leave a small loop.



3 Repeat Step 2 to make more loops.



4 After the final loop, make a small stitch over the last loop to secure it.

HOOK UP SOME
SPECIAL EFFECTS
WITH TEXTURED
YARNS!



FAB AMIGURUMI YARNS

A few of the brilliant yarns available for making amazing toys.



YARN REVIEWS

PATONS FAIRYTALE CLOUD DK

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% polyester
BALL 25g/82m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £1.79



Fairytale Cloud DK by Patons is fantastically fluffy. When hooked, it works up into a plush, velvety-soft fabric with a fun, fleecy appearance. The fluff can obscure the crochet stitches a fair bit, making it quite a forgiving yarn, but we'd recommend working in

good light and trying to feel the stitches as you work. Fairytale Cloud would be fantastic for amigurumi toys or for adding a bit of playful texture to other creations. Choose from seven colours. www.makeitcoats.com
01484 681881

PHILDAR PHIL COTON 3

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 50g/121m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £2.89



This bargainous beauty from top French brand Phildar is a cool, crisp cotton with a dry handle. It's easy to work with and comes in a variety of 49 shades, including neutrals, zesty brights and three pretty variegated options. Phil Cotton 3 has a pleasing sheen

and provides good stitch definition. It also has added aloe vera, which keeps it feeling fresh. If you want a heavier weight for patterns in this collection, Phil Cotton 4 is the DK version. www.deramores.com
0800 488 0708

SIRDAR BEACHCOMBER

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 50g/140m
HOOK 4mm
RRP £2.95



Fresh as an ocean breeze and with a playful colour palette to match, this slubby textured DK yarn from Sirdar is a true delight. It has a thick and thin nature, which keeps things interesting while you're hooking and adds a unique finish to your makes. The

cotton is cool, smooth and easy to work with, despite its crimped look. There are 12 cheery shades to choose from – eight solid hues and four variegated, coastline-inspired shades. www.sirdar.co.uk
01924 231682

RED HEART MIAMI

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 50g/120m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £2.09



If you're after a good-quality cotton 4ply yarn that will define your crochet stitches, you can't go far wrong with Red Heart's Miami. The soft, smooth cotton is combed, steamed and mercerised, which gives it a beautiful shine. It would be a fantastic

choice for hooking bright summery makes. A bonus is that it's machine washable, which makes it a practical choice for anything a child will throw around! Take your pick from 22 rich shades. www.redheart.co.uk
01484 681881

RICO ESSENTIALS COTTON DK

WEIGHT DK
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 50g/130m
HOOK 3-4mm
RRP £2.59



This mercerised yarn is very versatile. It comes in a range of 40 fantastic colours, from pastels through to deeper shades. With such a variety of colours, this cotton DK is ideal for making batches of amigurumi in multicoloured variations – for stringing into

bunting, for example. It has a lovely sheen to it, which is nice for anything you want to add a suggestion of iridescence to, such as butterfly wings. The yarn can be machine washed at 30°C. www.rico-design.co.uk
020 3024 9009

ROWAN SUMMERLITE 4PLY

WEIGHT 4ply
CONTENT 100% cotton
BALL 50g/175m
HOOK 3mm
RRP £3.95



This wondrously soft, plied cotton yarn from Rowan has a gentle sheen and is available in a subdued palette of 12 subtle shades, all of which harmonise beautifully together. Smooth, supple and high quality, Summerlite 4ply is pleasant to work with

and incredibly light. It would be a fantastic choice for anyone who prefers gentle colours rather than brights. The matt finish and soft feel are what make this cotton yarn really special. www.knitrowan.com
01484 681881

Rambling girl



FINDERS KEEPERS

Crochet Ilaria Caliri's rambling sweetheart, complete with rucksack. She's the cutest.

Rambling girl



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Beige (91)
 - Yarn B Light Blue (27)
 - Yarn C White (80)
 - Yarn D Red (02)
 - Yarn E Banana (63)
- Small amount of Yarn F aran weight yarn in orange or brown for the hair. We recommend Lopi Lettlopi (100% wool 50g/100m) Orange (1410) or Louisa Harding Esquel (60% merino 20% llama, 20% silk, 50g/97m) Orange (003)
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/2) hook
- 2 x 8mm safety eyes
- 1 small button
- Toy stuffing

MEASUREMENTS

The finished doll measures approx 28cm (11in) in height

ABBREVIATIONS

3-tr cluster (Yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 3 times, inserting the hook in the same st each time, yrh and draw through all 4 loops on hook
For a full list, see page 130.

This little amigurumi darling is going for walk in the park. She's donned her favourite bunny hat, packed her rucksack and now she's ready for summertime adventures. The truth is, she's convinced she's a bunny and we haven't the heart to tell her any different. This redhead has well and truly stolen our hearts!

The project is worked using simple double crochet stitches, so while it looks fiddly to make, it's not all that difficult at all. The head and body are worked as one piece. All the other bits and bobs are made separately and then sewn on.

BODY AND HEAD

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st all around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in the next st, dc in next st; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 2 sts; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 3 sts; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 4 sts; repeat from * around. [36 sts]

Rounds 7-12 Dc in each dc around. [36 sts]

Round 13 (Dc2tog, dc in the next 4 sts) 3 times, dc in the next 18 dc. [33 sts]

Round 14 (Dc2tog, dc in the next 3 sts) 3 times, dc in the next 18 dc. [30 sts]

Round 15 Dc in each dc around.

Round 16 *Dc2tog, dc in next 3 sts; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Round 17 Dc in each dc around.

Round 18 *Dc2tog, dc in the next 2 sts; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 19 Dc in each dc around.

Round 20 Change to Yarn A, *dc2tog, dc in next st; repeat from * around. [12 sts]

Round 21 Dc in each dc around.

Stuff the body.

Round 22 *2dc in next st, dc in the next st; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 23 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 2 sts; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Round 24 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 3 sts; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Round 25 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 4 sts; repeat from * around. [36 sts]

Round 26 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 5 sts; repeat from * around. [42 sts]

Round 27 *2dc in the next st, dc in the

next 6 sts; repeat from * around. [48 sts]

Rounds 28-34 Dc in each dc around.

Round 35 *Dc in the next 6 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [42 sts]

Round 36 *Dc in the next 5 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [36 sts]

Round 37 *Dc in the next 4 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Round 38 *Dc in the next 3 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Secure the eyes between Rounds 29 and 30, approx 11 sts apart.

Stuff the head with toy stuffing and continue stuffing as you go.

Round 39 *Dc in the next 2 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 40 *Dc in the next st, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [12 sts]

Round 41 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

HAT

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next st; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 2 sts; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 3 sts; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 4 sts; repeat from * around. [36 sts]

Round 7 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 5 sts; repeat from * around. [42 sts]

Round 8 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 6 sts; repeat from * around. [48 sts]

Round 9 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 7 sts; repeat from * around. [54 sts]

Rounds 10-15 Dc in each dc around.

Round 16 (Dc in the next 16 sts, dc2tog) 3 times. [51 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into the ring. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in the next st, dc in the next 4 sts. [6 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in the next st, dc in the next 2 sts) twice. [8 sts]

Round 4 (2dc in the next st, dc in the next 3 sts) twice. [10 sts]

Round 5 (2dc in the next st, dc in the

Rambling girl

next 4 sts) twice. [12 sts]

Round 6 (2dc in the next st, dc in the next 3 sts) 3 times. [15 sts]

Rounds 7-11 Dc in each dc around. [15 sts]

Round 12 Dc2tog, dc in the next 13 sts. [14 sts]

Round 13 Dc2tog, dc in the next 12 sts. [13 sts]

Round 14 Dc2tog, dc in the next 11 sts. [12 sts]

Round 15 (Dc2tog, dc in the next 4 sts) twice. [10 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into the ring. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Round 3 Dc in the next 4 sts, 3-tr cluster in the next st, dc in the next 5 sts. [10 sts]

Rounds 4-8 Dc in each dc around.

Round 9 Change to Yarn B, ss in the front loop only of each st around.

Round 10 Dc in the back loop only of each st around.

Rounds 11-13 Dc in each dc around.

Round 14 (Dc2tog, dc in the next 3 sts) twice. [8 sts]

Rounds 15 and 16 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

Stuff arms with toy stuffing.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn C, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into the ring. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next st; repeat from * around. [15 sts]

Rounds 4 and 5 Dc in each dc around.

Round 6 (Tr2tog) 3 times, dc in the next 9 sts. [12 sts]

Rounds 7-17 Dc in each dc around.

Round 18 (Dc2tog, dc in the next 4 sts) twice. [10 sts]

Rounds 19 and 20 Dc in each dc around.

Round 21 Change to Yarn A, dc in the back loop only of each dc. [10 sts]

Rounds 22-27 Dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing up.

Stuff the legs with toy stuffing.

BOOTS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn D, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next st; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 4 Dc in the back loop only of each dc. [18 sts]

Rounds 5 and 6 Dc in each dc around.

Round 7 Dc in the next 6 sts, (tr2tog) 3 times, dc in the next 6 sts. [15 sts]

Rounds 8-16 Dc in each dc around. [15 sts]

Round 17 Ss in each dc around. [15 sts]

Fasten off.

DRESS

Using Yarn E, ch21.

Row 1 (RS) Skip the first ch, *dc in the next 4 ch, 2dc in the next ch; repeat from * across, turn. [24 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc in the next 5 sts, 2dc in the next st; repeat from * across, ch6, turn. [28 dc and 6 ch]

Row 3 Ss in the sixth ch from the hook (button loop made), dc in the next 3 dc, 2dc in the next st, ch6, skip 6 sts, 2dc in the next st, dc in the next 6 sts, 2dc in the next st, ch6, skip 6 sts, 2dc in the next st, dc in the next 3 sts, turn. [20 dc and 2 ch-6 armhole sps]

Row 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc in the next 7 sts, 2dc in the next st; repeat from * across, turn. [36 sts]

Row 5 Ch1 (does not count as st), *dc in the next 8 sts, 2dc in the next st; repeat from * across, do not turn, ss to the first dc of row to begin working in the round. [40 sts]

Round 6 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around. [40 sts]

From Round 7, work in the amigurumi method in a continuous spiral.

Round 7 (RS) *Dc in next 9 sts, 2dc in the next st; repeat from * around. [44 sts]

Rounds 8-15 Dc in each dc around.

Round 16 Dc in the front loop only of each dc around.

Fasten off.

Round 17 Join Yarn B in the back loop only of the first dc of Round 15, working in the back loops: ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in each st around, ss in top of beg ch to join. [88 sts]

Fasten off.



The realistic texture of the doll's hair is created by using a thick and thin yarn.



No bunny is properly attired without a suitably fluffy pom-pom tail. Attach securely.

Rambling girl

Sew the button to opposite end of Row 3, in line with button loop.

RUCKSACK

Using Yarn D, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next st; repeat from * around. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 2 sts; repeat from * around. [24 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 3 sts; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in the next st, dc in the next 4 sts; repeat from * around. [36 sts]

Rounds 7-9 Dc in each dc around.

Round 10 *Dc in the next 10 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [33 sts]

Rounds 11 and 12 Dc in each dc around.

Round 13 *Dc in the next 9 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [30 sts]

Rounds 14 and 15 Dc in each dc around.

Round 16 *Dc in the next 8 sts, dc2tog; repeat from * around. [27 sts]

Rounds 17 and 18 Dc in each dc around.

Ss to the next st, turn and begin working in rows.

RUCKSACK LID

***Row 1** Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the front loop only of the next 12 dc, turn, leaving the remaining sts unworked. [12 sts]

Rows 2 and 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each dc across, turn. [12 sts]

Row 4 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc2tog, dc in the next 8 dc, dc2tog, turn. [10 sts]

Row 5 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc2tog, dc in the next 6 dc, dc2tog, turn. [8 sts]

Row 6 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc2tog, dc in the next 4 dc, dc2tog, turn. [6 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

SHOULDER STRAP 1

Row 1 Working into the back loops only of Round 18 of rucksack, join Yarn D opposite the first st of *Row 1 of rucksack lid, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the next 3 sts, turn.

Rows 2-26 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the next 3 sts, turn.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.



A rucksack is brilliant for a curious girl to collect things in.

SHOULDER STRAP 2

Row 1 Working into the back loops only of Round 18 of rucksack, join Yarn D opposite the 10th st of *Row 1 of rucksack lid, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the next 3 sts, turn.

Rows 2-26 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in the next 3 sts, turn.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Sew the ends of the shoulder straps between Round 6 and 7 of the rucksack, using the images as a guide.

TO MAKE UP

For the hair, cut long lengths of Yarn F. Using the images as a guide, sew the

hair onto the head with long stitches.

Sew the hat to the head, over the hair, adding a little stuffing between the head and the hat. Sew the ears to the hat, placing them between Rounds 8 and 9 of the hat, approx 6 sts apart.

Sew the legs and arms to the body, using the images as a guide.

Dress the doll in the boots and dress, then add the rucksack. Sew into place.

Using Yarn B, make a 3cm diameter pompom and sew it on the back of the dress, below the rucksack.



14
Fantastic designs
to crochet

MAKE BELIEVE

Make a wish and come with us into a fantasy world of enchanted creatures, fairytales and (not so) scary monsters!



LITTLE RED

Hook this fairytale amigurumi pair
by Mei Li Lee. Simply adorable.



Forest friends



YOU WILL NEED

- Approx 50g of 4ply yarn in each of the following shades: beige, dark brown, red, light blue, white and grey
- Dark brown sewing thread
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Tapestry needle
- Sewing needle
- 4 x 7mm round blue brads
- 1 small button
- 1 x 6mm black oval animal's nose
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Small pieces of felt in pink and white for cheeks and eyes
- Craft glue

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 11cm (4¼in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

Inv dec Invisible decrease: insert hook into front loop of 1st st. Without putting yarn round hook, bring hook to the front of work and insert hook into front loop of next st (3 loops on hook). Yrh and draw through all 3 loops.
For a full list, see page 130.

You might remember Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf being arch-enemies in the classic fairytale. Not these two! Our darling amigurumi characters are the best of friends – really, can you imagine this cute little wolfy getting mad and eating people? They make a lovely pair of pals playing in the woods.

C LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD HEAD

Using beige yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in the next dc, 1dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 2 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 3 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 4 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 7 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 5 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Round 8 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 6 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [48 sts]

Rounds 9-15 Dc in each dc around. [48 sts]

Round 16 *Inv dec, dc in the next 6 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Round 17 *Inv dec, dc in the next 5 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 18 *Inv dec, dc in the next 4 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 19 *Inv dec, dc in the next 3 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 20 *Inv dec, dc in the next 2-dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [18 sts]
Stuff the head.

Round 21 *Inv dec, dc in the next dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [12 sts]

Round 22 (Inv dec) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail, thread through remaining stitches to close. Do not cut thread – you will be using it for the eye indentations and nose.

EYE INDENTATIONS

With a tapestry needle, take the working yarn through the head to a stitch on the left side of the head,



positioning it at the bottom of Round 13. Make one horizontal stitch and bring the thread back down to the bottom of the head. Gently tug on the yarn to create a slight indentation.

Now repeat with the right side of the head leaving 8 stitches in between the indentations.

Do not fasten off. 01

NOSE

Using the same yarn, bring the strand out to the centre of the face on Round 13. Pull it taut and loop it three times around the needle. Pull needle through to make a small French knot. Bring the thread into the stitch next to it and gently pull it through bottom of the head. Trim excess yarn. 02

FACIAL FEATURES

Cut 2 half-moons of white felt to match the size of the blue brads. Glue them near the indentations. Add glue onto the blue brads and pop one in each indentation.

For the lips, make one small vertical backstitch with dark brown thread.

LARGER PIECE OF HAIR

Using dark brown yarn, make a magic loop.

Forest friends

Rounds 1-8 (RS) Work as for Rounds 1-8 of head. [48 sts]
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

SMALLER PIECE OF HAIR

Using dark brown yarn, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-6 (RS) Work as for Rounds 1-6 of head. [36 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

For a side-swept hairdo, layer the smaller piece of hair beneath the larger piece. Position them on the head and secure with small backstitches. ⁰³

HOOD

Using red yarn, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-8 (RS) Work as for Rounds 1-8 of head. [48 sts]

Rounds 9-16 Dc in each dc around. [48 sts]

Round 17 *Inv dec, dc in the next 6 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Round 18 *Inv dec, dc in the next 5 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 19 *Inv dec, dc in the next 4 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Fasten off.

Using small backstitches, secure the hood to the head. ⁰⁴

COLLAR

Using red yarn, ch31, turn.

Row 1 Dc in the second ch from the hook and each ch across, turn. [30 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each dc across, ch1, turn. [30 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

BODY

Note The body is worked from the bottom up.

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-3 (RS) Work as for Rounds 1-3 of head. [18 sts]

Rounds 4-10 Dc in each dc around. [18 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

DRESS

NOTE The dress is attached to the top of the body and worked over it from top to bottom. ⁰⁵

Round 1 Holding body with the open end up, attach blue yarn with WS facing to any st on back edge of Round 10 of body using a ss. Work back around the edge in the opposite direction by working 19dc evenly into Round 10 of body.

Rounds 2 and 3 Dc in each dc around. [19 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in the next dc, 1dc; repeat from * 8 times more, 2dc into the last dc. [29 sts]

Rounds 5-8 Dc in each dc around. [29 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends. Stuff the body.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using beige yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc in ring. [7 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each dc around. [7 sts] Change to blue yarn.

Round 3-7 Dc in each dc around. [7 sts]

Fasten off leaving a long tail.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Using beige yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 8dc in ring. [8 sts]

Rounds 2 and 3 Dc in each dc around. [8 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO FINISH

Pin the pieces in place to gauge where

each part should go.

Sew the body to the head.

Sew on the arms. Sew on the legs.

Wrap the collar around the top part of the body (over the arms). Secure in place with small backstitches. ⁰⁶
 Sew a small button onto the centre of the collar.

Cut 2 pink felt circles and glue them onto the cheeks.

LITTLE WOLF

HEAD

Using grey yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in the next dc, 1dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 2 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 3 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 4 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 7 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 5 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Round 8 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 6 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [48 sts]

Rounds 9-14 Dc in each dc around. [48 sts]

Change to white yarn.

Round 15 Dc in each dc around. [48 sts]

Round 16 *Inv dec, dc in the next 6 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Round 17 *Inv dec, dc in the next 5 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [36 sts]



Forest friends

Round 18 *Inv dec, dc in the next 4 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 19 *Inv dec, dc in the next 3 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 20 *Inv dec, dc in the next 2 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [18 sts]
Stuff the head.

Round 21 *Inv dec, dc in the next dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [12 sts]

Round 22 (Inv dec) 6 times. [6 sts]
Fasten off and weave in ends.

EYE INDENTATIONS

With a tapestry needle and a strand of grey yarn, repeat the earlier process as per Red Riding Hood instructions to make the eye indentations. 07

NOSE

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc in ring. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Round 3 Dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

BODY

Using grey yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in the next dc, 1dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 2 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Rounds 5-10 Dc in each dc around. [24 sts]

Round 11 *Inv dec, dc in the next 2 dc; repeat from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Stuff the body.

TUMMY

Using white yarn, ch5.

Round 1 Skip first ch, dc in the next 3 ch, 3dc in the last ch. Rotate to work in the remaining loops of the foundation ch, dc in the next 3 sts.

Round 2 Dc in the next 3 sts, 3dc in next st, dc in the next 5 sts.

Round 3 Dc in the next 5 sts, 2dc in the next st, leaving the remaining sts unworked.

Fasten off, leaving a long end for sewing.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using grey yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc in the ring. [7 sts]

Rounds 2-6 Dc in each dc around. [7 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Using grey yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 8dc in the ring. [8 sts]

Rounds 2 and 3 Dc in each dc around. [8 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

EARS (MAKE 2)

Using grey yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 3dc in the ring. [3 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [6 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in the next dc, 1dc; repeat from * 2 times more. [9 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 2 dc; repeat from * 2 times more. [12 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 3 dc; repeat from * 2 times more. [15 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TAIL

Using white yarn, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 3dc in ring. [3 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [6 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in the next dc, 1dc; repeat from * 2 times more. [9 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 2 dc; repeat from * 2 times more. [12 sts]

Rounds 5-6 Dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Change to grey yarn.

Round 7 Dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 8 *Inv dec, dc in the next 2 dc; repeat from * 2 times more. [9 sts]

Round 9 *Inv dec, dc in the next dc; repeat from * 2 times more. [6 sts]

Round 10 Dc in each dc around. [6 sts]
Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO FINISH

Pin the pieces in place to gauge where each part should go.

Once you are completely happy with the placement of each of your pieces, sew the nose onto the head.

Glue on the oval nose.

Sew the body onto the head.

Sew on the tummy.

Sew on the arms.

Sew on the legs.

Sew on the tail.

FACIAL FEATURES

Cut 2 half-moons of white felt to match the size of the blue brads.

Glue them near the indentations.

Add glue onto the blue brads and pop one in each indentation.

Flatten the ears. Sew them to the head, curving the bottom edge slightly as shown in the image. 08

Cut 2 pink felt circles and glue them onto the cheeks.



FAIRY PLAYGROUND

We think Louise Tyler's cute toadstools would go well with our friendly gnome on page 95.



Fairy toadstools



YOU WILL NEED

- DK yarn, approx 25g each of:
Yarn A red
Yarn B beige
Yarns C, D & E green in 3 shades
Yarn F cream
- Small amount of 2ply yarn in cream or white
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Removable stitch marker
- Medium gauge wire, approx 20cm (8in) cut into 5 different lengths
- Small pliers
- Tapestry needle
- PVA glue
- Felt, 2 x 10cm (4in) diameter circles in green, brown or beige
- Toy stuffing

MEASUREMENTS

Circle: 10cm (4in) diameter
Toadstools: from 2.5cm (1in) to 6.5cm (2½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

blo back loop only
For a full list, see page 130.

This enchanting little piece of whimsy – a felt pincushion – is made in the round, then the wire-stemmed toadstools are added afterwards. It will make a nice nature-inspired decoration on a side table, or the toadstools would look equally attractive arranged in a little vase.

C FAIRY RING PINCUSHION

SMALL TOADSTOOL CAP (MAKE 2)

Round 1 Using Yarn A, ch2, 12tr in second ch from hook, ss into first tr to join. [12 sts]

Fasten off.

LARGE TOADSTOOL CAP (MAKE 3)

Round 1 As Small Toadstool Cap.

Round 2 Ch1, dc into each st around, ss in first dc to join.

Fasten off.

GILLS (MAKE 5)

Using Yarn B, ch5, join with ss to make a ring, ch1, 12dc in ring, ss in first dc to join.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

STALK (MAKE 5)

Push a small length of wire through the centre of each gill, bend end over on inside of gills to secure and stitch in place using cream or white yarn. Insert threaded tapestry needle back through centre of gills near the wire and wrap tightly down the wire until fully covered. Stitch back and forth a few times through wire, wrapping to secure and fasten off. Dip yarn ends into PVA glue to keep in place. Allow to dry fully. Repeat for all 5 stalks and set aside.

GRASS

Using Yarn C, 5ch, ss into first ch to make a ring.

Round 1 Ch4 (counts as 1tr, ch1), *1tr in ring, ch1; rep from * 7 times more, ss in third ch of t-ch to join round. [9 sts]

Place st marker here and work in spiral from here onwards.

Round 2 *2tr in each ch-sp, ch2; rep from * to st marker. [18 sts]

Round 3 Move st marker, change to Yarn D, rep Round 2. [18 sts]

Rounds 4-5 Move st marker, change to Yarn E and work (2tr in each ch-sp, ch3) to end of round. [18 sts]

Round 6 Move st marker, change to

Yarn C, ch1, *3dc into next ch-sp, ch1; rep from * to end of round, ss in first dc to join.

Fasten off Yarn C and weave in ends.

The fabric will curve into a domed shape – stretch and gently block to flatten shape slightly.

TO FINISH

Place stalks and gills up into toadstool caps and stitch neatly in place around the edge using Yarn B.

Using Yarn F, make random small stitches on cap to look like toadstool spots, or sew on tiny beads or sequins. Repeat for all toadstools.

Stitch the crochet dome shape onto one circle of felt.

Arrange toadstools in circular shape and, when you are happy with the position, push the wire end of each toadstool down through the RS of crochet and felt circle, bend ends over on the underside of felt circle, stitch in place with tapestry needle and a length of Yarn C.

Stitch the other circle of felt to the other circle to make a base, using Yarn D and neat blanket stitches about 2mm apart around circumference. Leave a little gap and fill shape with toy stuffing, close with blanket stitch and fasten off Yarn D. Ensure the blanket stitch is sufficiently close to retain the stuffing. You should end up with approx 72 sts.

SCALLOP EDGING

Work sts into blanket stitches around circle as follows:

Using cream yarn, attach yarn to any blanket stitch around circle.

Work ch1, *1dc in next blanket stitch, 2tr in next blanket stitch, 1dc in next blanket stitch, ss in next blanket stitch; rep from * around (approx 18 times), ss into first ch to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



This toadstool pincushion is from *Fairytale Crochet* by Louise Tyler. Filled with children's fairytale favourites, it's published by CICO Books (£12.99). Photos are by Martin Norris. www.cicobooks.co.uk

Fairy toadstools



YOU WILL NEED

- DK yarn, approx 25g each of 3 contrasting shades
- A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
- Small scraps of felt or fabric
- Small amounts of embroidery thread (or 2ply yarn) in different colours
- Removable stitch marker
- Pretty buttons (optional)
- Bead and twine (optional)
- Toy stuffing

MEASUREMENTS

12.5cm (5in) tall (including chimney)

ABBREVIATIONS

blo back loop only

For a full list, see [page 130](#).



These quirky toadstools are full of character and are a brilliant way to use up leftover bits of yarn from other projects – they use only a tiny amount of each colour.

C TOADSTOOL HOUSES

BASE

Using first colour, ch5, join with ss in fifth ch from hook to make ring, ch1, 10dc in ring, ss to first dc to join. [10 sts]

Place marker to show end of round.

Move marker up each round worked.

Round 1 Ch1, 2dc in each st to end.

[20 sts]

Round 2 Ch1, turn to WS, ss in back loop only of next st, dc(blo) around, ss to first dc to join. [20 sts]

STALK

Rounds 3-6 Dc around, working in a spiral (no t-ch at the beginning of each round). [20 sts]

Round 7 *Ch1, skip next st, 1dc; rep from * to end of round. [10 sts + 10 ch-sps]

Round 8 Ch1, dc in each ch-sp, ss to first dc to join. [10 sts]

Rounds 9-12 Ch1, dc around. [10 sts]

Fasten off first colour.

GILLS

Change to second colour.

Round 13 Ch4, 1dtr in base of ch, 2dtr in each st to end, ss to fourth ch of t-ch join. [20 sts]

Rounds 14-15 Ch1, dc around, ss to first dc to join. (20 sts)

Fasten off second colour, leaving a 30cm tail.

CAP

Using third colour, Ch5, join with ss to fifth ch from hook.

Round 1 Ch1, 10dc in ring, ss in first dc to join.

Place st marker.

Round 2 Ch1, 2dc in each st to end, ss in first dc to join. [20 sts]

Round 3 Repeat Round 2. [40 sts]

Rounds 4-8 Dc around, working in a spiral.

Finish last round with a ss in first dc of previous round.

Fasten off third colour.

TO FINISH

Fill stalk firmly with stuffing (they should be free-standing).



Using contrasting thread, work French knots at random over cap.

Cut squares and rectangles of felt or fabric in different colours, place on stalk and cap to represent a door and windows, then neatly backstitch them in place.

CHIMNEY

Cut a piece of felt about 2.5x5cm and roll up into a tube. Stitch or glue neatly in place then attach to cap by stitching down through tube into centre of cap and sewing securely on the underside.

Put a little stuffing into cap and then place stalk and gills up inside. Using yarn end on gills, backstitch inside of cap to gills.



Our enchanted toadstools are from *Fairytale Crochet* by Louise Tyler. Filled with all your fairytale favourites, it's published by CICO

Books (£12.99). Photos by Martin Norris.
www.cicobooks.co.uk

Baby dragon



FRIENDLY FIRE

Forget bunnies or bears, Stephanie Lau's little fire-breathing chap ticks all the cute-factor boxes.

Baby dragon



YOU WILL NEED

- DK yarn in green
- A 2mm (US 4) steel hook
- Yarn needle
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Beige felt (for wings and scaled body), dark brown felt (for horns), and pink felt (for cheeks)
- 7.5mm safety eyes
- Stranded cotton:
 - Black for mouth
 - White for fang
 - Tan for scaled body
- Glue gun
- Fabric glue

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

If there's one thing that connects all amigurumi characters, it's cuteness, and this little dragon is no exception. He's like a little baby dragon who's just popped out of his egg and hasn't yet learned how to breathe fire. Right now, he's just warm and cuddly and wants a hug. He's made by stitching a few small pieces together and sticking on some felt – we love his little horns and wings, both of which are simple to make.

C HEAD

NOTE The head is started by making an oval shape by crocheting around the foundation chain.

Using green yarn, ch7. ⁰¹

Round 1 Starting with second chain from hook, 6dc. Turn and work 6dc along the other side of the foundation ch. [12 sts] ⁰²

Round 2 (1dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 3 (2dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 4 (3dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 5 (4dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [36 sts]

Rounds 6-8 Dc all round. [36 sts]

Round 9 (5dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 10 (6dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [48 sts]

Round 11 (7dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [54 sts]

Rounds 12-16 Dc all round. [54 sts] ⁰³

Round 17 (7dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [48 sts]

Round 18 Dc all round. [48 sts]

Round 19 (4dc, dc2tog) 8 times. [40 sts]

Round 20 (2dc, dc2tog) 10 times. [30 sts]

Position safety eyes and embroider mouth and fang.

Round 21 (1dc, dc2tog) 10 times. [20 sts]

Stuff head firmly. ⁰⁴

Round 22 (Dc2tog) 10 times. [10 sts]

Round 23 (Dc2tog) 5 times. [5 sts]

Fasten off and weave in end.

Cut 2 oval pieces of pink felt and glue onto face as cheeks.



GET STARTED



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Baby dragon

WINGS (MAKE 2)

Cut out 2 isosceles triangles from beige felt. Using same yarn as head, cut 5 pieces of yarn for each wing and splay them outwards from the tip of the triangle. Using fabric glue, secure the yarn in place. **05**

Trim the felt, cutting from one piece of yarn to the next and then scallop the edges between the yarn pieces. **06**

Secure wings onto the dragon's head using a glue gun.

HORNS (MAKE 4)

Make 2 small and 2 large horns. With dark brown felt, cut pieces into the shape shown in step **07** below. Make 2 larger cones for the back and 2 smaller cones for the front. Apply glue with a glue gun and roll into cone shapes. **08**

Glue them onto the dragon's head.

LEGS (MAKE 2) + BODY

Using green yarn, make a magic ring.

Round 1 6dc in magic ring. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 Dc all round. [12 sts]

For the first leg, fasten off (no need to leave long end for sewing). For the second leg, do not cut off the yarn. Ch1 and join with ss to any dc on first leg.

*Ss in next dc around on same leg, ch1, then ss to next dc on opposite leg; rep from * another 2 times. **09**

The leg joins should take up 4 stitches on each leg, leaving 8 dc on each leg remaining. For the next round, work one complete round around the joined leg pieces as follows:

Round 4 Work 8dc around the leg, 3dc evenly across the join, 8dc around the other leg, 3dc across the join. [22 sts]

Rounds 5-12 Dc all round. [22 sts]

Fasten off and leave long end for sewing. Sew body to head.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using green yarn, make a magic ring.

Round 1 6dc in magic ring. [6 sts]

Rounds 2-4 Dc all round. [6 sts]

Fasten off and leave long end for sewing.

Attach to the sides of the body.

TAIL

Using green yarn, make a magic ring.

Round 1 4dc in magic ring. [4 sts]

Rounds 2 and 3 Dc all round.

[4 sts]

Round 4 (1dc, 2dc in next dc) 2 times.

[6 sts]

Round 5 (2dc, 2dc in next dc) 2 times.

[8 sts]

Fasten off and leave long end for sewing.

Attach tail to bottom-back of dragon to help give him balance. If you want your dragon to appear like he is leaning back and about to give out a puff of fire, angle the tail upwards.

TO FINISH

To add scaled detailing to the front of the body: cut out a shape to fit from beige felt. Wrap tan stranded cotton around the felt piece several times, applying glue dots on the back along the way to secure the stranded cotton in place. Glue the embroidered felt piece onto the body of the dragon when complete. **10**



Stephanie loves her workroom flooded with natural light for creating amigurumi.



AN AMIGURUMI SENSATION

Creating adorable amigurumi while caring for an equally cute little girl? It's all in a day's work for crochet devotee and designer Stephanie Lau.

Light and welcoming, the home of Canadian crochet artist Stephanie Lau is filled with her personality. Mum to toddler Myla and new daughter Brielle, Stephanie is uncannily energetic, eagerly talking about her love of amigurumi: the art of creating crocheted stuffed toys.

"I always loved crafts as a child," she enthuses. "I learnt how to knit and crochet when I was 10, and I crocheted afghans, purses, stuffed animals and sweaters for my teddy bears." At high school and then university, however, crafting took a back seat as she focused on her studies. "It wasn't until after I got married and started working that

I delved back into my old hobbies, and discovered amigurumi. I found pictures of adorable stuffed crocheted animals online, from *Star Wars* characters to cupcake bears. They were all incredibly cute with their typically oversized heads and undersized extremities – it amazed me that people could design and make such cute creations simply using yarn and a crochet hook!"

BRAND NEW CHALLENGES

Stephanie developed her new skills, and the next step was making creatures of her own. "Designing amigurumi really stretches my creativity when I'm figuring out how I want it to look and

what shapes I need. It can be time-consuming because I'm meticulous when writing out my patterns, but it's exciting seeing it all come together!"

Her latest challenge, however, lies in fitting her craft life around her family life, especially her new role as a mum. "It is difficult finding time to crochet with a newborn, but I've worked on a few projects here and there," she says. "I find crochet very therapeutic and relaxing, so I'm happy I can continue to pursue it – it's easy to pick up some yarn and a crochet hook when you have a few moments, and you feel so productive when you finish making something, like a baby hat."

These bunnies are adorable gifts, maybe for Easter or Valentine's Day.



Stephanie's creations range from penguins to cupcake bears.



Her daughters have also provided plenty of inspiration. "I've had a lot of fun crocheting items for them, from hats and sweaters to items such as Myla's stork pouch. I made the pouch thinking it would cover her entire body, but it barely covered half of her – we had a tall baby! I'm also excited about a panda outfit I've made, and some matching mommy-and-baby hats and headbands!"

Stephanie enjoys connecting online with crafters across the globe.

"It's fun seeing what my fellow crochet and amigurumi artists are up to on their blogs, including Ana Paula Rimoli," she says. "Pepika and Berrysprite both have a great eye for design, and I get a lot of craft inspiration from CraftGawker. I'm on Ravelry a lot, and I've connected with other young amigurumi artists such as Wolfdreamer, A Morning Cup of Jo, and Sweet N Cute Creations. There's great camaraderie in the amigurumi community."

Through being an avid blog follower, Stephanie has founded her own – www.AllAboutAmi.tumblr.com. "I was taking many pictures of my amigurumi, and really wanted to share the story behind each project," she explains. "My blog is a way for me to document my own work, as a diary and portfolio."

Stephanie's blog features guides to her techniques to aid other amigurumi enthusiasts. "I thought people might benefit from seeing the step-by-step making instead of just the pattern and final product, and many people have told me they really appreciate this

aspect of my blog. It breaks the whole process down so people can see what a project looks like from start to finish."

LOVE AND SUPPORT

Stephanie's husband has encouraged her interests right from the beginning.

"Ryan was so excited when I picked up my love of crochet again, and helped me start the blog," she says. "We work together on our amigurumi – he helps with initial sketches and stitches the faces."

Ryan also takes the beautiful photos we've been enjoying on the blog, and helped Stephanie turn part of their home in Edmonton, Alberta, into a dedicated workspace. "It's wonderful working as a husband and wife team on these projects!" Stephanie exclaims. "We've created a bright atmosphere that I love working in. I use the space efficiently: I have my computer, a comfy chair, and a lot of storage for my yarn and crafting supplies. I love going into this special space!"

Ryan is even partly responsible for Stephanie's gorgeous Chinese New Year Dragon, which is in this collection. "Ryan encouraged me to make the Dragon, as it seemed challenging," she admits. "I'm so thankful that Ryan always supports me."

Stephanie also enjoys making crocheted hats and scarves. "It's fun making things you can wear, especially because where I live gets very cold in winter. I love the richness and depth of really chunky projects. I love making items for the home, too, such as chair socks – to prevent chairs from scuffing the floors – and storage baskets."

Amigurumi remains her first love, though. "There's something so satisfying about an amigurumi project – you crochet all the separate parts, stuff them, position and assemble them, and stitch on the face. It's amazing to see a crocheted stuffed animal come to life!" Turn to page 75 to find out how to create Stephanie's amigurumi dragon, and find out more about Stephanie at www.AllAboutAmi.tumblr.com

Stephanie Lau was interviewed by Judy Darley.

"I FIND CROCHET VERY THERAPEUTIC AND RELAXING, SO I'M HAPPY I CAN PICK UP SOME YARN AND A HOOK WHEN I HAVE A FEW MOMENTS."

A FEW OF HER FAVOURITE THINGS...

"I follow fashion blogs such as Wendy's Lookbook and The Chriselle Factor for inspiration. I shop at many stores, and love layering pieces and putting together outfits to highlight my crocheted work for my blog posts! I enjoy working with Patons Grace, a mercerized

cotton that's a light yarn with a lovely sheen to it. Working with thinner yarn and a smaller crochet hook, I can make very tight stitches for small amigurumi, such as the Chinese New Year Dragon.

"My husband and daughters give masses of support and inspiration!"





CLUSTERS AND BOBBLES

Grab a hook and yarn – here's our in-depth guide to textured stitches, whether you're right- or left-handed.

CAN YOU TELL WHAT IT IS YET?

This is how one row of clusters and one row of bobbles looks.

Once you've mastered the basic stitches in crochet (see page 120), you can have fun creating simple textured stitches for different effects within your fabric.

In this step-by-step guide, we'll show you how to work clusters and bobbles using treble stitches, although you can use the same techniques to create textured effects with other crochet stitches.

Once you've worked through our tutorial, you can try out your new skills by making our textured toy – a cute monster – on page 83.



CLUSTERS

TEXTURED STITCHES

You might have seen crochet patterns that use clusters or bobbles – there's no great mystery to them. Clusters are usually a group of two or three stitches, often treble stitches or longer stitches such as double trebles or triple trebles. Clusters



BOBBLES

are often used in crochet motifs, while bobbles are more popular in accessories and clothing, where they can add an interesting texture (they're often used on edgings). Bobbles are usually a group of five or six stitches worked into the same stitch, to create a raised 'bump' in the crochet fabric.

WHERE DO I WORK A CLUSTER?

Here's where to start to practise working treble clusters.

Working clusters is easier than it might look. If you can work decrease stitches, you can work clusters – but if you're not sure about how to work decreases, see our step-by-step tutorial on page 85.

A cluster uses the same sort of technique as a decrease stitch, but you work it into the same stitch or space each time, rather than over two or more stitches or spaces.

To practise working clusters into stitches, make a short row of trebles, about 10 or 12 stitches should be fine. Then follow the instructions on the right. To practise working the technique into chain spaces, crochet a 10- or 12-stitch row of treble mesh (ch1, 1tr, ch1, 1tr, etc) then follow the instructions on the far right.



RIGHT-HANDED

01



LEFT-HANDED

01

WORK 3-TR CLUSTER INTO STITCH (METHOD 1)

Work a row of trebles. On row 2, treble into first 3 sts, then ch2 to space out cluster. Skip a stitch, work 3-tr cluster (see page 81) into the next stitch. Ch2, skip next stitch, treble into remaining sts.



RIGHT-HANDED

02



LEFT-HANDED

02

WORK 3-TR CLUSTER INTO SPACE (METHOD 2)

Work a row of treble mesh. On row 2, continue the treble mesh by working ch1, 1tr into ch-sp, ch1, etc. When you're ready, work a 3-tr cluster (see page 81) into a chain space. Treble mesh to end.

HOW DO I WORK A CLUSTER?

Here's how to work a 3-treble cluster stitch.



IF YOU'RE RIGHT-HANDED...

To practise this technique, make a row of 10 to 12 treble stitches. On the second row, treble into the first 3 sts, then ch2 to space out the cluster. Skip a stitch and work the 3-tr cluster into the next stitch as follows...

Step 1 Begin working a treble in the next stitch in the usual way. Start by placing yrh, then insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch. Work yrh and pull loop through (3 loops on hook), yrh and pull through first 2 loops (2 loops on hook).

Step 2 Without finishing the first tr, begin the 2nd tr by working yrh and inserting the hook in the same stitch again. Work yrh, pull loop through, yrh and pull through first 2 loops (3 loops on hook).

Step 3 Without finishing the second tr, begin the 3rd tr by working yrh and inserting the hook in the same stitch again. Work yrh, pull loop through, yrh and pull through first 2 loops (4 loops on hook). Now you'll complete all three trebles together by working yrh and pulling this loop through all 4 loops on the hook.

Step 4 This is how your completed 3-tr cluster should look. Your stitch count should remain the same. On the next row, you can simply work a stitch into the top of the cluster as usual.

IF YOU'RE LEFT-HANDED...

To practise this technique, make a row of 10 to 12 treble stitches. On the second row, treble into the first 3 sts, then ch2 to space out the cluster. Skip a stitch and work the 3-tr cluster into the next stitch as follows...

Step 1 Begin working a treble in the next stitch in the usual way. Start by placing yrh, then insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch. Work yrh and pull loop through (3 loops on hook), yrh and pull through first 2 loops (2 loops on hook).

Step 2 Without finishing the first tr, begin the 2nd tr by working yrh and inserting the hook in the same stitch again. Work yrh, pull loop through, yrh and pull through first 2 loops (3 loops on hook).

Step 3 Without finishing the second tr, begin the 3rd tr by working yrh and inserting the hook in the same stitch again. Work yrh, pull loop through, yrh and pull through first 2 loops (4 loops on hook). Now you'll complete all three trebles together by working yrh and pulling this loop through all 4 loops on the hook.

Step 4 This is how your completed 3-tr cluster should look. Your stitch count should remain the same. On the next row, you can simply work a stitch into the top of the cluster as usual.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT!

Practise the techniques until you can do them without looking at the pictures for every stage. You'll find your own way of holding the hook and yarn comfortably.

WHERE DO I MAKE A BOBBLE?

Here's where to start to work a bobble stitch.

Working bobbles is similar to working clusters, in that both involve working several stitches together in the same stitch or space. The big difference with bobbles is that they form a bump, which adds an extra dimension to your fabric.

The other key difference with bobbles is that they need to be worked from the wrong side of your crochet fabric. So if you want to add bobble stitches to your work, you'll need to plan

ahead a little and make sure you create them on a wrong side row. Once you've finished each bobble stitch, you can gently push the bump through from the wrong side to the right side of the fabric, as shown below.

There are various other stitches you can use to create raised bobbles in your crochet fabric, such as 'puff' and 'popcorn' stitches (if you come across them the pattern instructions will explain how to do them).



HOW DO I MAKE A BOBBLE?

Here's how to make a bobble stitch in your quest for texture domination.



Step 1 Work a row of 10 to 12 treble stitches. Work half of the second row. When you're ready, work a bobble into the next stitch. To do this, work 6 treble stitches up to half way, so (yrh, insert hook into stitch,

yrh, pull loop through, yrh, pull through first 2 loops) 6 times. Now work yrh...

Step 2 ...and pull through all the loops on the hook. Now work one final yrh...

Step 3 ...and pull through the remaining

bobble loop to complete the bobble.

Step 4 Continue to work the row in treble stitches. Once you're a few trebles past the bobble, you can go back and push it through to the right side with your finger.

Bobbly monster

YOUR NEXT STEPS!

Try out your new
textured bobble
skills with this
monster make!



MONSTER MASH

Textured stitches will never be scary once you've
hooked this cute bobbly creature by Cara Medus.

Bobbly monster



YOU WILL NEED

- Hayfield Bonus DK (100% acrylic, 100g/280m)
1 ball of each:
Bright Green (886)
Azur (824)
Bright Lemon (819)
 - Oddments of black and white DK yarn
 - A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
 - Polyester toy stuffing
- For yarn stockists, contact
Sirdar 01924 231682
www.sirdar.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

10x17cm (4x6¾in)

ABBREVIATIONS

MB Make Bobble (Yrh, insert hook in st, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 4 times, inserting the hook in the same space/st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook, ch1 to close bobble.
For a full list, see page 130.



With his wonky eyes, crooked smile and bobbly, touch-me texture, we just can't say no to this lovable little monster. If you're confident with double crochet stitches, then this is a fab project to get you decreasing and working textured stitches, too.

These bright and bold shades work well together, but you could have fun playing with other, wilder colour combinations. If you become more skilled at crochet you could try making the bobbles using different coloured yarn from the body. They would really stand out as pops of colour – you could even add beads.

C BODY

With Bright Green, ch57.

Row 1 (RS) Beginning in the second ch from the hook, dc in each ch to end, turn. [56 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc in each st to end, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, 27dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [55 sts]

Row 4 Ch1, 9dc, (MB, 5dc) 6 times, MB, dc in each st to the end, turn. [7 bobbles]

Row 5 As Row 3. [54 sts]

Row 6 As Row 2.

Row 7 Ch1, 26dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [53 sts]

Row 8 Ch1, 11dc, (MB, 5dc) 5 times, MB, dc in each st to the end, turn. [6 bobbles]

Row 9 Ch1, 26dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [52 sts]

Row 10 As Row 2.

Row 11 Ch1, 25dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [51 sts]

Row 12 Ch1, 13dc, (MB, 5dc) 4 times, MB, dc in each st to the end, turn. [5 bobbles]

Row 13 Ch1, 25dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [50 sts]

Row 14 As Row 2.

Row 15 Ch1, 24dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [49 sts]

Row 16 Ch1, 15dc, (MB, 5dc) 3 times, MB, dc in each st to the end, turn. [4 bobbles]

Row 17 Ch1, 24dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to end, turn. [48 sts]

Row 18 As Row 2.

Row 19 Ch1, 23dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [47 sts]

Row 20 Ch1, 17dc, (MB, 5dc) twice, MB,

dc in each st to the end, turn.

[3 bobbles]

Row 21 Ch1, 23dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [46 sts]

Row 22 As Row 2.

Row 23 Ch1, 22dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [45 sts]

Row 24 As Row 2.

Row 25 Ch1, 22dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [44 sts]

Row 26 As Row 2.

Row 27 Ch1, 21dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [43 sts]

Row 28 As Row 2.

Row 29 Ch1, 21dc, dc2tog, dc in each st to the end, turn. [42 sts]

Row 30 Ch1, (dc2tog, 5dc) 6 times, turn. [36 sts]

Row 31 Ch1, (dc2tog, 4dc) 6 times, turn. [30 sts]

Row 32 Ch1, (dc2tog, 3dc) 6 times, turn. [24 sts]

Row 33 Ch1, (dc2tog, 2dc) 6 times, turn. [18 sts]

Row 34 Ch1, (dc2tog, 1dc) 6 times, turn. [12 sts]

Row 35 Ch1, (dc2tog) 6 times, do not fasten off. [6 sts]

Fold the body piece in half with WS together so that the row ends are aligned one side with the other.

Ch1, and work a double crochet seam to join the body into a dome shape. Aim to work 1dc through both layers of each row end.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

BASE

With Bright Green, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 6dc into the loop, ss to the first dc. [6 sts]

Round 2 Ch1, 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 Ch1, (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times, ss to the first dc. [18 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times, ss to the first dc. [24 sts]

Round 5 Ch1, (3dc, 2dc in the next st) 6 times, ss to the first dc. [30 sts]

Continue working in the same fashion, increasing 6 sts evenly on every round, until the base measures 10cm in diameter, or the size needed to fit the opening at the bottom of the body.

Fasten off, leaving a tail long enough to sew the base to the body.

Bobbly monster

Begin sewing the base to the body with an oversewn seam, stopping before you have reached the end in order to stuff the body.

Stuff the body with the polyester toy stuffing and complete the seam.

SPIKES

With Bright Lemon, join at the top in the first dc of the seam that runs down the back of the body.

For the first row of each point, work in each st of the dc seam.

Row 1 (RS) Ch1, *5dc, turn. [5 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, dc2tog, dc in each st to end, turn. [Dec by 1 st]

Repeat Row 2 until 2 sts remain.

Next row Ch1, dc2tog, do not fasten off.

With RS facing, ss down the left side of the point you have just made, and ss into the stitch at the base of the point, ready to work in the next unworked stitch of the seam.

Repeat all from * twice more, using the next 5 sts of the seam each time. [3 points with a base of 5 sts].

Repeat all from * twice more, but this time work 6dc in Row 1 [2 points with a base of 6 sts].

Repeat all from * once more, with 7dc in Row 1 [1 point with a base of 7 sts].
Fasten off and weave in ends.

ARMS AND HANDS (MAKE 2)

Using Azur, ch6 and ss to first ch to join into a ring, leaving a long tail.

Round 1(RS) Ch1, 6dc into the ring.

Continue working on these 6 sts in a spiral without closing off each round with a ss until the arm measures 5cm.

Flatten the end, work 3dc across the end through both layers to close it, turn.

*Ch6, beginning in the second ch from the hook dc in each ch back towards the arm, dc in the first of 3 dc at the end of the arm.

Repeat from * twice more, with the last dc of each repeat in the next of 3 dc at the end of the arm.

Fasten off and weave in finishing end.

Use tail end at top of arm to sew each arm to the body.

EYES (MAKE 2)

Using White, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-3 As Rounds 1-3 of Base.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

With Black, sew a small cross in the centre of the eye. Sew the eye to the body using the tail of yarn and the photo (page 83) as a guide.

MOUTH

With Black, sew a mouth using back stitch and the photo as a guide.



Stitch simple black crosses in the centre of each eye to bring your monster to life.



Use the brightest shade to make the fun, curvy spikes along your monster's back.



Beautiful bobbles – work them evenly all around the monster for touchable texture.

SIMPLE STEPS HOW TO DOUBLE DECREASE (DC2TOG)



1 Start by inserting the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row. Begin to work a double crochet stitch in the usual way, working yrh and pull loop through (2 loops on hook).



2 Without finishing the first dc, begin the next dc by inserting the hook in the next stitch on the previous row. Again, work yrh and pull loop through (3 loops on hook).



3 Now complete both dc stitches together by working yrh and pull this loop through all 3 loops on the hook.



4 This is how your completed dc2tog should look. You will have neatly decreased one stitch. On subsequent rows, you can simply work a stitch into the top of the dc2tog stitch as usual.

CINDERELLA

Louise Tyler's Cinderella has her dreams come true when her fairy godmother works her magic.



Belle of the ball



YOU WILL NEED

- DK yarn
 - Yarn A small amount yellow or gold
 - Yarn B approx 20g flesh tone
 - Yarn C approx 50g light blue
 - Yarn D small amount silver metallic yarn
- A 3mm (US size D/3) hook
- Removable stitch marker
- Toy stuffing
- Tapestry needle
- Sewing needle
- Embroidery thread (or 2ply yarn) in black, blue, red and silver
- Silver or crystal beads (to fit the metallic yarn)

MEASUREMENTS

8cm (3¼in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

flo front loop only

For a full list, see page 130.

Cinderella is one of the world's best-loved fairytale characters. We just can't seem to get enough of her rags-to-riches story, and whether she's in a film, story book or pantomime she always looks so beautiful when she heads off to the ball.

Louise Tyler has created a very pretty Cinderella for you to crochet. She has a bejewelled, off-the-shoulder ballgown, silver slippers and a trendy beehive hairdo with silver decorations. It's amigurumi at its fashionable best!

C BODY HEAD

Base ring Using Yarn B, ch5, ss into first ch to make a ring. Ch1, 8dc in ring, ss into first dc to join round. Place marker. Ensure you move the marker every round. Each round starts and finishes at centre back of figure, working in a spiral. [8 sts]

Round 1 2dc in each st around. [16 sts]

Rounds 2-4 Dc around. [16 sts]

Round 5 (1dc, dc2tog, 1dc into next st) 4 times. [12 sts]

Round 6 Dc2tog to end of round. [6 sts]

Round 7 Dc around. [6 sts]
Fill head with toy stuffing. Turning chains are worked from this point on.

INCREASE FOR SHOULDERS

Round 8 Ch3 (counts as 1tr now and throughout), 1tr at base of ch, 2tr in each st around, ss in third ch of t-ch to join. [12 sts]

Round 9 Rep Round 8. [24 sts]

Fasten off Yarn B and join Yarn C.

Round 10 Ch1, (2dc, 2dc in next st, 3dc) 4 times, ss to first dc to join. [28 sts]

BODICE

Round 11 Ch1, 4dc, skip 6 sts, 8dc, skip 6 sts, 4dc, ss to first dc to join. This creates two armholes of 6 sts each and a central bodice of 16 sts. Cont to work into bodice sts only as follows:

Rounds 12-13 Ch1, dc around, ss to first dc to join. [16 sts]

SHAPE WAIST

Round 14 Ch1, *4dc, 1dc, dc2tog, 1dc; rep from * once, ss to first dc to join. [14 sts]

Round 15 Ch1, 1dc, (2dc, dc2tog, 2dc) twice, 1dc, ss to first dc to join. [12 sts]

CRINOLINE SKIRT

Round 16 Ch3, 1tr in base of ch, 2tr in next st, 1tr, (2tr in each of next 2 sts, 1tr) 3 times, ss in third ch of t-ch to join. [20 sts]

Round 17 Ch3, (2tr in next st, 1tr) to last st, 2tr in last st, ss in third ch of t-ch to join. [30 sts]

Round 18 Ch3, (2tr in next st, 1tr) to last st, 2tr, ss in third ch of t-ch to join. [45 sts]

Rounds 19-23 Ch3, tr around, ss to third ch of t-ch to join. [45 sts]

WORK SCALLOP EDGING

Round 24 Ch1, dc in first st, * skip 1 st, 5tr in next st, skip 1 st, dc in next st; rep from * rep 10 times more, ss into first dc to join.

You should have 11 scallops around the hem of the skirt.

Fasten off Yarn C and weave in ends.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Join Yarn B to any st in armhole. Place st marker and work in spirals as follows:

Round 1 (2dc in next st, 2dc) twice. [8 sts]

Round 2 Dc around. [8 sts]

Round 3 (Dc2tog, 2dc) twice. [6 sts]

Rounds 4-7 Dc around. [6 sts]

Round 8 (Dc2tog, dc) twice. [4 sts]

Round 9 Dc around.

Fasten off Yarn B, leaving a 7.5cm tail.

Use tapestry needle to weave into last round, tightening sts as you sew.

Weave in all ends. Rep for second arm.

SKIRT BASE

Base ring Using Yarn C, ch5, ss into first ch to make a ring, ch3, 9tr into ring, ss into third ch of t-ch to join. [10 sts]

Round 1 Ch3, 1tr in base of ch, 2tr in each st around, ss in third ch of t-ch to join. [20 sts]

Round 2 Ch3, 2tr in next st, (1tr, 2tr in next st) to end of round, ss in third ch of t-ch to join. [30 sts]

Round 3 Ch3, 1tr, 2tr in next st, (2tr, 2tr in next st) to end of round, ss in third ch of t-ch to join. [40 sts]

Fasten off, leaving 30cm tail.

FOOT

Using Yarn B, ch2, 4dc in second ch, ss into first dc to make a ring. Place marker. Move and replace marker as you go. [4 sts]

Belle of the ball

Rounds 1-4 Working in spirals (no t-chs), dc around.

Fasten off, leaving 10cm tail.

HAIR

Using Yarn A, ch2, 8dc in second ch, ss in first dc to join. [8 sts]

Rounds 1-2 Ch1, dc around, ss in first dc to join. [8 sts]

Fill the shape with a pea-sized ball of toy stuffing.

Round 3 Ch1, dc2tog to end of round, ss in first dc to join. [4 sts]

Round 4 Ch3, 1tr in base of ch, 2tr in each st around, ss in third ch of t-ch to join. [8 sts]

Round 5 Rep Round 4. [16 sts]

QUIFF

Row 1 Ch2 (counts as 1htr), 5tr(flo), 1htr(flo), turn. [7 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, 1htr(flo), 3tr(flo), htr2tog(flo). [5 sts]

Fasten off Yarn A, leaving a10cm tail.

SLIPPER

Using Yarn D, ch2, 6dc in second ch from hook, ss in first dc to join. Place marker. [6 sts]

Rounds 1-3 Dc around. [6 sts]

Round 4 Ch3, 3tr, turn.

Round 5 Ch2, 3htr.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

TO FINISH

Fill body with toy stuffing. Thread yarn tail on skirt base into tapestry needle and stitch to base of skirt. Weave in ends. Sew foot to underside of scallop hem so it just peeps out under skirt at the front. Slide slipper onto foot and sew in place.

FRILLED NECKLINE

Using Yarn C, ch26, ss in first st to join. (ch5, skip 1 st, dc in next st) around. [13 loops in total]

Fasten off and use end to sew to neckline of bodice, starting and finishing at centre back st. Attach hair to head.

RINGLETS

Ringlet 1 Attach Yarn A to any st at back of hair, ch15, turn, work dc into each ch working back towards head, ss into join.

Ringlet 2 As for first ringlet, working 25 chains.

Fasten off and weave in ends neatly. The ch and dc braids will naturally coil

into ringlets, but you can wrap the ringlet around your hook or a pencil to form a tighter ringlet shape if desired.

CORONET

Using Yarn D, ch9, ss in next 3 ch, 1htr, 3tr in next ch, 1htr, ss into rem 3 ch.

Fasten off Yarn D, leaving 7.5cm yarn tail. Push coronet over Cinderella's bun and stitch to bun with yarn tail. Weave in ends.

EMBROIDERY

Embroider face using the photo on page 86 as a guide. Use black thread for eyelashes, blue for eyes and red for lips. Chain stitch silver moons onto dress using silver embroidery thread or silver metallic yarn. Make straight stitch stars using silver thread. Stitch tiny silver beads to the bun and dress.

If you want to make Cinderella's coach and attendants, you'll find patterns in Louise's book.



Our romantic heroine is taken from *Fairytale Crochet* by Louise Tyler. Featuring all your fairytale favourites, all in miniature, it's

published by CICO Books (£12.99). Photos are by Martin Norris. www.cicobooks.co.uk



BUTTERFLY KISSES

Designed by Mei Li Lee this dainty doll is a fluttering cutie – and she's all ready for summer!

Butterfly fairy



YOU WILL NEED

- 4ply yarn, approx 15g of each:
Yarn A Beige
Yarn B Orange (variegated if possible)
Yarn C Black (glittery if possible)
Yarn D Purple
Yarn E Turquoise
Yarn F Pink
- A 2mm (US 4 steel) hook
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Tapestry needle
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Small pieces of white felt
- 2 x 8mm green round brads
- Craft glue
- Sewing needle and dark brown thread

MEASUREMENTS

Approx 10cm (4in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

Inv dec Invisible decrease: insert your hook into the front loop of the first st. Without putting the yarn round the hook, bring the hook to the front of the work and insert the hook into the front loop of the next st (3 loops on hook). Yrh and draw through all 3 loops.
For a full list, see page 130.

Top amigurumi designer Mei Li Lee has conjured up this cute, summery butterfly pixie doll. Her pretty wings have spots on both sides, and if you can find glittery black yarn for her costume she'll look just stunning.

NOTES

Use a 2.5mm hook for all pieces except the Antennae (2mm hook).

C HEAD

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 *2dc in next dc, 1dc in next dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Round 4 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 5 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 6 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 7 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 5 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Round 8 *2dc in next dc, dc in next 6 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [48 sts]

Rounds 9-15 Dc in each dc around.

Round 16 *Inv dec, dc in next 6 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [42 sts]

Round 17 *Inv dec, dc in next 5 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [36 sts]

Round 18 *Inv dec, dc in next 4 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [30 sts]

Round 19 *Inv dec, dc in next 3 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [24 sts]

Round 20 *Inv dec, dc in next 2 dc; rep from * 5 times more. [18 sts]

Stuff the head.

Round 21 *Inv dec, dc in next dc; rep from * 5 times more. [12 sts]

Round 22 (Inv dec) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Thread tail through rem stitches to close. Do not cut yarn – you will use it for the eye indentations and nose.

FACE

EYE INDENTATIONS

Using a tapestry needle, take the working yarn through the head to a stitch on the left-hand side, positioning it at the bottom of Round 12.

Make one horizontal stitch and bring the thread back down to the bottom of the head. Gently tug on the yarn to create a slight indentation.

Now repeat on the right-hand side of

the head, leaving 8 stitches in between the indentations. Do not fasten off.

NOSE

Using the same yarn, bring the strand out to the centre of the face on Round 12 between the eye indentations. Loop the working yarn 4 times around the needle and pull needle through to make a small French knot.

Insert the needle into the stitch next to it and gently pull it through the bottom of the head.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

FACIAL FEATURES

Cut out 2 semi-circles of white felt the same size as the green brads. Glue them next to the indentations using the image as a guide. Add glue onto the green brads and secure in each indentation. Using dark brown thread and sewing needle, embroider the eyebrows and mouth using the image as a guide.

CHEEKS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn F, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the loop. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

HAIR

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-13 Work as Rounds 1-13 of head. [48 sts]

Round 14 4htr in each of next 6 dc, ss in next 3 dc, 4htr in each of next 6 dc leaving remaining sts unworked. [51 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

HAIR BUNS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-3 Work as Rounds 1-3 of head.

Rounds 4 and 5 Dc in each dc around. [18 sts]

Stuff the bun.

Round 6 *Inv dec, dc in next dc; rep from * 5 times more. [12 sts]

Round 7 (Inv dec) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

BODY

Using Yarn C, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-3 Work as Rounds 1-3 of head.

Rounds 4-10 Dc in each dc around. [18 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Butterfly fairy

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc in the loop. [6 sts]

Rounds 2-5 Dc in each dc around. [6 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 7dc in the loop. [7 sts]

Rounds 2-4 Dc in each dc around. [7 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.
Stuff the legs.

DOLL ASSEMBLY

Pin all head, body and hair pieces together and sew in place. **01**

WINGS

UPPER WINGS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn D, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-7 Work as Rounds 1-7 of head. [42 sts]

Round 8 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 6 dc) 3 times, 4htr in next dc, dc in the next 6 dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in next 6 dc) twice. [50 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. **02**
Block lightly to shape.

LOWER WINGS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn D, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-5 Work as Rounds 1-5 of head. [30 sts]

Round 6 (2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc) 3 times, 4htr in the next dc, dc in the next 4 dc, (2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc) twice. [38 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.
Block lightly to shape.

LARGE WING SPOTS (MAKE 4)

Using Yarn E, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1-3 Work as Rounds 1-3 of head.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

SMALL WING SPOTS (MAKE 8)

Using Yarn E, make a magic loop.

Rounds 1 and 2 Work as Rounds 1 and 2 of head.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

WING ASSEMBLY

Sew the upper wings together side by side. Sew the lower wings together side by side. **03** Sew the upper wings to the lower wings, overlapping slightly, using the image as a guide. **04**

Sew 2 of the large and 4 of the small wing dots to the front and back of the wings, placing them in the same location on each side. **05**

ANTENNAE (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn C and a 2mm hook, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc in the loop. [4 sts]

Rounds 2-8 Dc in each dc around. [4 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO FINISH

Sew wings and antennae in place using the image as a guide. **06**



JURASSIC CUTE

Make Becky Garratt's mega-adorable dinosaur duo, ready for hugging. Rawr.



Dinosaur buddies



YOU WILL NEED

- Stylecraft Special DK (100% Acrylic, 100g/295m)
For the Stegosaurus
1 ball of each:
Yarn A Turquoise (1068)
Yarn B Sunshine (1114)
For the Triceratops
1 ball of each:
Yarn A Magenta (1084)
Yarn B Bright Green (1259)
 - Small amount of black DK yarn
 - A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook for the Stegosaurus spikes
 - Toy stuffing
 - Stitch marker
- For yarn stockists, contact
Stylecraft 01535 609798
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Each dinosaur measures approx
17cm (6¾in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

These adorable dino buddies are both worked with the same basic amigurumi pattern, then their extra details (horns and the like) are added on afterwards. You could make a whole herd of cute dinos!

C HEAD

Using Yarn A, ch6.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and next 3 ch, 3dc in last ch, turn to work along the other side of the ch, dc in next 3 ch, 2dc in the last ch. [12 dc]

Round 2 (Dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next 2 dc) twice. [16 dc]

Round 3 (Dc in next 5 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) twice. [20 dc]

Round 4 (Dc in next 6 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc) twice. [24 dc]

Round 5 (Dc in next 7 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next dc) twice. [28 dc]

Round 6 (Dc in next 8 dc, 2dc in next dc, dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc) twice. [32 dc]

Rounds 7-9 Dc in each dc around. [32 dc]

Round 10 Dc in the next 14 dc, 2dc in the next 10 dc, dc in the next 8 dc. [42 dc]

Round 11 Dc in next 13 dc, (dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc) 7 times, dc in next 8 dc. [49 dc]

Rounds 12-19 Dc in each dc around.

Round 20 (Dc in next 5 dc, dc2tog) 7 times. [42 dc]

Rounds 21-22 Dc in each dc around.

Round 23 (Dc in next 4 dc, dc2tog) 7 times. [35 dc]

Round 24 Dc in each dc around.

Round 25 (Dc in next 3 dc, dc2tog) 7 times. [28 dc]

Round 26 (Dc in next 2 dc, dc2tog) 7 times. [21 dc]

Round 27 (Dc in next dc, dc2tog) 7 times. [14 dc]

Round 28 (Dc2tog) 7 times. [7 dc]
Fasten off.

BODY

Using Yarn A, ch6, ss to the first ch to join into a ring.

Round 1 (RS) 6dc into the ring. [6 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 dc]

Round 3 (Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc)

6 times. [18 dc]

Round 4 (Dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [24 dc]

Round 5 (Dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [30 dc]

Round 6 (Dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [36 dc]

Round 7 (Dc in next 5 dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [42 dc]

Round 8 (Dc in next 6 dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [48 dc]

Round 9 (Dc in next 7 dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [54 dc]

Round 10 (Dc in next 8 dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [60 dc]

Round 11 (Dc in next 9 dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [66 dc]

Round 12 (Dc in next 10 dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [72 dc]

Round 13 Dc in the back loop of each dc around.

Rounds 14-19 Dc in each dc around.

Round 20 (Dc in next 10 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [66 dc]

Round 21 Dc in each dc around.

Round 22 (Dc in next 9 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [60 dc]

Round 23 Dc in each dc around.

Round 24 (Dc in next 8 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [54 dc]

Round 25 Dc in each dc around.

Round 26 (Dc in next 7 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [48 dc]

Round 27 Dc in each dc around.

Round 28 (Dc in next 6 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [42 dc]

Round 29 Dc in each dc around.

Round 30 (Dc in next 5 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [36 dc]

Round 31 Dc in each dc around.

Round 32 (Dc in next 4 dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 dc]

Round 33 Dc in each dc around, turn.

You will now work back and forth in rows to create the neck section:

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in next 22 dc, turn.

Row 2 Skip the first st, ss in next st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in next 18 dc, turn. [18 dc]

Row 3 Skip the first st, ss in next st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in next 14 dc, turn. [14 dc]

Row 4 Skip the first st, ss in next st, ch1 (does not count as st), dc in next 10 dc. [10 dc]

Fasten off.

Dinosaur buddies

TAIL

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 5dc into the ring. [5 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [10 dc]

Rounds 3-7 Dc in each dc around.

Round 8 (Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) 5 times. [15 dc]

Rounds 9-11 Dc in each dc around.

Round 12 (Dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc) 5 times. [20 dc]

Rounds 13-15 Dc in each dc around.

Round 16 (Dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next dc) 5 times. [25 dc]

Round 17 Dc in each dc around.

Round 18 (Dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in next dc) 5 times. [30 dc]

Round 19 Dc in each dc around.

Round 20 (Dc in next 5 dc, 2dc in next dc) 5 times. [35 dc]

Round 21 Dc in each dc around.

Round 22 (Dc in next 6 dc, 2dc in next dc) 5 times. [40 dc]

Round 23 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 5dc into the ring. [5 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [10 dc]

Round 3 (Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) 5 times. [15 dc]

Round 4 (Dc in next 2 dc, 2dc in next dc) 5 times. [20 dc]

Round 5 (Dc in next 3 dc, 2dc in next dc) 5 times. [25 dc]

Round 6 Change to Yarn A, dc in back loop of each st around.

Rounds 7-14 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 5dc into ring. [5 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [10 dc]

Round 3 Change to Yarn A, dc in the back loop of each st around.

Rounds 4-9 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off.

STEGOSAURUS SPINES (MAKE 8)

Using a 4mm hook and Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 3dc into ring. [3 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [6 dc]

Round 3 Dc in each dc around.

Round 4 (Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) 3 times. [9 dc]

Round 5 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off.

TRICERATOPS NOSE HORN

Using Yarn B, ch2.

Round 1 3dc into the first chain. [3 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [6 dc]

Rounds 3-5 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off.

TRICERATOPS FOREHEAD HORNS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn B, ch2.

Round 1 3dc into the first chain. [3 dc]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [6 dc]

Round 3 Dc in each dc around.

Round 4 (Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) 3 times. [9 dc]

Rounds 5-8 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off.

TRICERATOPS FRILL

Using Yarn B, ch9.

Row 1 (WS) Ch1, ss loosely in each ch beginning with the second ch from the hook, turn. [9 sts]

Row 2 (RS) Ch1, working into the back loops only, dc in the first 3 sts, htr in next 3 sts, tr in the last 3 sts, turn. [9 sts]

Row 3 Ch1, ss loosely in each st, turn.

Row 4 Ch1, working into the back loops only, dc in first 3 sts, htr in next 3 sts, tr in next 2 sts, 2tr in last st, turn. [10 sts]

Row 5 Ch1, ss loosely in each st, turn.

Row 6 Ch1, working into the back loops only, dc in the first 3 sts, htr in the next 3 sts, tr in the next 2 sts, tr2tog, turn. [9 sts]

Row 7 Ch1, ss loosely in each st, turn.

Rows 8-31 Repeat Rows 2-7, 4 times more.

Rows 32-33 Repeat Rows 2-3 once more.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

TO MAKE UP

Stuff all of the body parts except the Stegosaurus spines.

The arms only require a little stuffing at the ends.

Using the image on page 92 as a guide, position the head on the body so that the extra body rows are at the back of the neck and pin in place. Position the arms and legs onto the body. Pin in place.

For the Stegosaurus, flatten the spines and evenly position them along the length of the head and body, and down



Take the time to space the spikes of your stegosaurus evenly along the centre back.



The triceratops frill should be angled slightly away from the face, as shown in this image.



Make sure that the three horns are securely attached to the triceratops. Just so cute.

the tail. The first spine should be placed just above the eyes. Pin in place.

For the Triceratops, position the horns and frill onto the head using the image as a guide and pin in place.

With all features pinned in place, sew each one onto the dinosaur, using any long tails. Weave in all ends.

Embroider eyes and nostrils using black DK yarn and small stitches.



GNEVILLE GNOME

Bring the garden magic indoors with Annemarie Benthem's sweet little gnome and toadstool.



GNEVILLE GNOME

Bring the garden magic indoors with Annemarie Benthem's sweet little gnome and toadstool.

Garden duo



DOUBLE
CROCHET



ARAN
WEIGHT



4MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- Drops, Paris (100% Cotton, 50g/75m) small amounts of Yarn A White (16)
 - Yarn B Red (12)
 - Yarn C Off White (17)
 - Yarn D Strong Blue (09)
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - Safety eyes (6mm/¼in)
 - Polyester toy stuffing
 - Wooden book ends (optional)
- For yarn stockists, contact Drops www.garnstudio.com

MEASUREMENTS

Gnome 8x19cm (3x7½in)
Toadstool 10x13cm (4x5in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

Gnomes are said to be magical creatures, when they're not busy fishing or protecting the lawns of the nation. This charming chap is Gneville, and he and his trusty toadstool are worked in a cool cotton yarn using double crochet stitches in a spiral. It's a fantastic first project if you're new to amigurumi.

Gneville's hat, head and body are worked as one piece, then the beard and facial features are added afterwards. This pair also double as bookends – cute and a little bit kitsch.

C GNOME HAT

Using Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 6dc into centre of loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 and all even rounds to

Round 14 Dc around.

Round 3 *1dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [9 sts]

Round 5 *2dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [12 sts]

Round 7 *3dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [15 sts]

Round 9 *4dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [18 sts]

Round 11 *5dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [21 sts]

Round 13 *6dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [24 sts]

HEAD

Round 14 Change to Yarn C, dc around.

Round 15 *7dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [27 sts]

Round 16 *8dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [30 sts]

Round 17 *8dc, dc2tog; rep from * around. [27 sts]

Round 18 *7dc, dc2tog; rep from * around. [24 sts]

Round 19 Dc2tog around. [12 sts]

BODY

Round 20 Change to Yarn D, dc around.

Round 21 2dc in each st around. [24 sts]

Round 22 *7dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [27 sts]

Round 23 and all odd rounds to

Round 31 Dc around.

Round 24 *8dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [30 sts]

Round 26 *9dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [33 sts]

Round 28 *10dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [36 sts]

Round 30 *11dc, 2dc in next st; rep from * around. [39 sts]

Round 32 Dc around.

Round 33 *11dc, dc2tog; rep from * around. [36 sts]

Round 34 *10dc, dc2tog; rep from * around. [33 sts]

Round 35 *9dc, dc2tog; rep from * around. [30 sts]

Round 36 *8dc, dc2tog; rep from * around. [27 sts]

Round 37 *7dc, dc2tog; rep from * around. [24 sts]

Rounds 38 and 39 Dc2tog around [6 sts]

Fasten off.

BEARD

Using Yarn A, ch9.

Row 1 (RS) Starting in second ch from hook, dc across, turn. [8 sts]

Row 2 Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), dc across, turn.

Row 3 Ch1, 1dc, skip 1 dc, 4dc, skip 1 dc, 1dc, turn. [6 sts]

Row 4 Ch1, dc across, turn.

Row 5 Ch1, 1dc, skip 1 dc, 2dc, skip 1 dc, 1dc, turn. [4 sts]

Row 6 Ch1, dc across, turn.

Row 7 Ch1, skip 1 dc, 1dc, skip 1 dc, 1dc, turn. [2 sts]

Row 8 Ch1, skip 1 dc, 1dc. [1 st]

Fasten off.

NOSE

Using Yarn C, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) Work 4dc in first ch made. [4 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [8 sts]

Round 3 Skip 1 dc, 1dc; rep from * around. [4 sts]

Fasten off.

FACE

Ensure all ends are inside the gnome. Attach the safety eyes, nose and beard to the face.

TO FINISH

Stuff the gnome firmly with polyester toy stuffing and sew hole closed.

TOADSTOOL

STALK

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Garden duo



Gneville's beady eyes, button nose and mystical beard really bring him to life.



Perch them on simple wooden bookends to add magic to your own little library.



For a slightly heavier polka-dot look for your toadstool cap, simply crochet more dots.

Round 1 6dc into centre of loop. [6 sts]

Rounds 2 and 3 2dc in each dc around. [24 sts]

Round 4 Dc in back loop only around.

Rounds 5-15 Dc around. Turn at end of Round 15.

Round 16 (WS) Ch3 (counts as tr), 2tr in each st around, ending with 1tr in st with t-ch, ss to join. Do not turn. [48 sts]

Round 17 Ch3 (counts as tr), tr around, ss to join. Do not turn.

CAP

Round 18 Change to Yarn B, dc in back loop only around, turn and continue to work all following rounds on the RS.

Rounds 19-22 Dc around.

Round 23 *4dc, dc2tog; rep from * around. [40 sts]

Round 24 and even rounds to Round 28 Dc around.

Round 25 *3dc, dc2tog; rep from * around. [32 sts]

Round 27 *2dc, dc2tog; rep from * around. [24 sts]

Round 29 *1dc, dc2tog; rep from * around. [16 sts]

Round 30 Dc2tog around. [8 sts] **Fasten off.**

DOTS (MAKE 3)

Using Yarn A, ch2.

Round 1 5dc in 1st ch made. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [10 sts]

Fasten off.

TO FINISH

Sew dots onto the top of the toadstool. Ensure all the ends are on the inside of the toadstool. Stuff the toadstool firmly with polyester toy stuffing. Sew gap closed.

BOOKENDS

If desired, you can turn your amigurumi gnome and toadstool into bookends. We bought a pair of 15cm³ plain bookends, made of 7mm-thick wood. Alternatively, you could make a set with four pieces of wood, by gluing, nailing or screwing them together.

Once you have a pair of bookends, glue the gnome on one and the toadstool on the other, or just leave them loose for play time.

LITTLE OAKLEY

Stitch Becky Garratt's super-cute woodland pal with an acorn cup hat.



Woodland critter



YOU WILL NEED

- Hayfield Bonus DK (100% acrylic, 100g/280m), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Rusty (780)
 - Yarn B Moss Green (792)
 - Yarn C Pumpkin (766)
 - Oddment of black DK
 - A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
 - A 4mm (US G/6) hook
 - Stitch marker
 - A pair of 6mm safety eyes
 - Polyester toy stuffing
- For yarn stockists, contact
Sirdar 01535 650230
www.sirdar.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

13cm (5in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

Bobble (Yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 5 times, inserting the hook in the same st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook
For a full list, see page 130.

This irresistible quirky critter is hooked in rich chestnut brown and mossy green. Little Oakley lives deep in the forest. He loves playing hide-and-seek, climbing trees, cuddling and playing conkers. We're rather taken with his acorn cup hat (preferably worn at a jaunty angle) and his winning smile. Hook him up and give him a new home!

NOTES

Use a 3mm hook for all pieces except the Acorn Cup Hat (4mm hook).

C FACE

Using Yarn C and a 3mm hook, ch5.

Round 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and the next 2 ch, 3dc in next ch, working along the other side of chain, dc in the next 3 ch, 3dc in the last ch. [12 sts]

Round 2 Dc in 4 dc, 2dc in each of next 2 dc, dc in next 4 dc, 2dc in each of last 2 dc. [16 sts]

Round 3 *Dc in the next 5 dc, 2dc in the next dc, dc in the next dc, 2dc in the next dc; repeat from * once more. [20 sts]

Round 4 *Dc in the next 6 dc, 2dc in the next dc, dc in the next 2 dc, 2dc in the next dc; repeat from * once more. [24 sts]

Round 5 *Dc in the next 7 dc, 2dc in

the next dc, dc in the next 3 dc, 2dc in the next dc; repeat from * once more, ss to the first 2 sts. [28 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Fix the safety eyes near the edges of the face, using the photo opposite as a guide. Embroider a mouth and a nose onto the centre of the face using the black DK yarn.

BODY

Using Yarn A and a 3mm hook, ch5, ss to the first dc to join.

Round 1 (RS) 2dc in each ch around. [10 sts]

Round 2 (Dc in 1 dc, 2dc in the next dc) 5 times. [15 sts]

Round 3 (Dc in 2 dc, 2dc in the next dc) 5 times. [20 sts]

Round 4 (Dc in 3 dc, 2dc in the next dc) 5 times. [25 sts]

Round 5 (Dc in 4 dc, 2dc in the next dc) 5 times. [30 sts]

Round 6 (Dc in 5 dc, 2dc in the next dc) 5 times. [35 sts]

Rounds 7-17 Dc in each dc around.

Round 18 (Dc in 6 dc, 2dc in the next dc) 5 times. [40 sts]

Round 19 (Dc in 7 dc, 2dc in the next dc) 5 times. [45 sts]

Round 20 (Dc in 8 dc, 2dc in the next dc) 5 times. [50 sts]



The base of the toy is completely flat so he can sit up.

Woodland critter

Rounds 21-32 Dc in each dc around.
Stuff the body.

Round 33 Dc in the back loop only of each dc around.

Round 34 (Dc in 8 dc, dc2tog) 5 times.
[45 sts]

Round 35 (Dc in 7 dc, dc2tog) 5 times.
[40 sts]

Round 36 (Dc in 6 dc, dc2tog) 5 times.
[35 sts]

Round 37 (Dc in 5 dc, dc2tog) 5 times.
[30 sts]

Round 38 (Dc in 4 dc, dc2tog) 5 times.
[25 sts]

Round 39 (Dc in 3 dc, dc2tog) 5 times.
[20 sts]

Round 40 (Dc in 2 dc, dc2tog) 5 times.
[15 sts]

Round 41 (Dc in 1 dc, dc2tog) 5 times.
[10 sts]

Stuff the remainder of the body.

Round 42 (Dc2tog) 5 times. [5 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn C and a 3mm hook, ch5, ss to the first dc to join.

Round 1 (RS) 2dc in each ch around.
[10 sts]

Round 2 (Dc in 1 dc, 2dc in the next dc) 5 times. [15 sts]

Round 3 Change to Yarn A, dc in the back loop only of each dc around.

Rounds 4-9 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Stuff the legs and sew them onto the body, using the image as a guide.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using Yarn A and a 3mm hook, ch5, ss to first dc to join.

Round 1 (RS) 2dc in each ch around.
[10 sts]



Crochet bobbles add a touch of natural-looking texture to the beret-style hat.

Use this photo as a guide when stitching on the facial features so he's as cute as can be.



Rounds 2-9 Dc in each dc around.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

Stuff the ends of the arms and flatten the upper arms before sewing them onto the body, using the image as a guide.

ACORN CUP HAT

Using Yarn B and a 4mm hook, ch5, ss to the first dc to join.

Round 1 2dc in each ch around. [10 sts]

Round 2 (Dc in 1 dc, 2dc in the next dc) 5 times. [15 sts]

Round 3 (Htr in 1 dc, Bobble in 1 dc, 2htr in the next dc) 5 times. [20 sts]

Round 4 (Bobble in the next st, htr in the next 2 sts, 2htr in the next st) 5 times. [25 sts]

Round 5 (Htr in 3 sts, Bobble in the next st, 2htr in the next st) 5 times.
[30 sts]

Round 6 (Htr in 1 st, Bobble in the next st, htr in the next 3 sts, 2htr in the next st) 5 times. [35 sts]

Round 7 (Htr in 5 sts, Bobble in the next st, htr in the next st) 5 times.

Round 8 (Htr in 3 sts, Bobble in the next st, htr in the next 3 sts) 5 times.

Round 9 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

ACORN CUP STALK

Using Yarn B and a 3mm hook, make a magic loop.

Round 1 6dc in loop. [6 sts]

Rounds 2-6 Dc in each dc around.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Sew onto top of hat.

TO FINISH

Sew the face to the body using the image as a guide.

Sew the hat in place on the body.

Techy robot



DIGITAL LOVE

Becky Garratt's high-tech super robot chappie has all the bells and whistles you'd hope for in a state-of-the-art tin man.

Techy robot



DOUBLE
CROCHET



DK
WEIGHT



3MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- King Cole Baby Comfort DK (60% acrylic, 40% nylon, 100g/310m), 1 ball of each: Silver (772), Citrus (770), Sorbet (779), Red (615)
 - King Cole Big Value DK (100% acrylic, 100g/290m), 1 ball of Surf (143)
 - Oddment of black DK yarn
 - A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
 - Toy stuffing
 - Plastic-coated garden wire
 - Black toy safety eyes
- For yarn stockists, contact
King Cole 01535 650230
www.kingcole.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

17x17x22cm (6¼x6¼x8½in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

This little beady-eyed chappie has totally stolen our hearts with his lopsided technological charm. Equipped with myriad buttons and panels that do who-knows-what, he's ready to beep and whirr his way into your life, too. His long arms are filled with wire so they're fully posable – with a little bit of practice, he can just about do the YMCA. Some of the robot's parts are worked in rows while others are worked in rounds or spirals, so you can practise plenty of double crochet skills.

NOTES

With all of the pieces, leave a long finishing tail of yarn in case it's needed for sewing up later.

The legs, arms and head light are crocheted using the amigurumi method, working the stitches in a spiral without closing off each round with a slip stitch. You may find it helps to mark the first st of the round with a marker, and move the marker up each round as you work.

We recommend leaving the wire out of the arms if you are making this toy for very young children.

C ROBOT BODY FRONT AND BACK (MAKE 2)

Using Silver, ch27.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [26 sts]

Rows 2-31 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off.

TOP AND BOTTOM

Using Silver, ch27.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [26 sts]

Rows 2-25 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off.

SIDES (MAKE 2)

Using Silver, ch22.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [21 sts]

Rows 2-31 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off.

BODY FRONT DETAILS

ROUND PIECES (MAKE 3)

Make 1 using Surf for Round 1.

Make 1 using Citrus for Round 1.

Make 1 using Sorbet for Round 1.

Round 2 of all 3 pieces is Silver.

Make a magic loop, 4dc into loop, ss to the first dc.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as first st throughout), 2dc in each st, ss to the first dc. [8 sts]

Change to Silver.

Round 2 Ch1, (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 4 times, ss to the first dc.

Fasten off.

HORIZONTAL PANEL

Using Citrus, ch15.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [14 sts]

Rows 2-6 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off.

Ss around edge with Silver.

Fasten off.

VERTICAL PANEL

Using Sorbet, ch5.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [4 sts]

Rows 2-14 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off.

Ss around edge with Silver.

Fasten off.

Sew all these front details onto the front body piece using the main photograph as a guide for positioning.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

Using Silver, make a magic loop, 5dc into loop.

Round 1 (RS) 2dc in each st. [10 sts]
Change to Surf.

Round 2 (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 5 times. [15 sts]

Round 3 (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 5 times. [20 sts]

Change to Silver.

Round 4 (3dc, 2dc in the next st) 5 times. [25 sts]

Round 5 Dc in the back loop only of each stitch.

Change to Surf.

Rounds 6-17 Dc in each dc, alternating

Techy robot

between Surf and Silver every 2 rounds, ending with Silver.
Ss to the next st.

Fasten off.

ROBOT HEAD

TOP, BOTTOM, FRONT & BACK (MAKE 4)

Using Silver, ch18.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [17 sts]

Rows 2-14 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off.

SIDES (MAKE 2)

Using Silver, ch13.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [12 sts]

Rows 2-14 Ch1, dc in each st to end, turn.

Fasten off.

NECK (MAKE 2)

Using Silver, make a magic loop, 5dc into loop, ss to the first dc.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1, 2dc into each dc, ss to the first dc. [10 sts]

Round 2 Ch1, (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 5 times, ss to the first dc. [15 sts]

Round 3 Ch1, (2dc, 2dc in the next st) 5 times, ss to the first dc. [20 sts]

Round 4 Ch1, (3dc, 2dc in the next st) 5 times, ss to the first dc. [25 sts]

Fasten off when making the first piece, do not fasten off the second piece. Place the two circles together, one on top of the other and ss them both together around the edge.

Fasten off.

HEAD LIGHT

Using Red, make a magic loop, 5dc into the loop.

Round 1 (RS) 2dc in each st. [10 sts]

Round 2 (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 5 times. [15 sts]

Rounds 3-5 Dc in each dc.

Ss to the next st.

Fasten off.

TO ATTACH HEAD

With a tapestry needle and the remaining long yarn tails, sew the neck piece onto the centre of the bottom head piece, then onto the top body piece.

Add the eyes to the front head piece and embroider on a smile using the oddment of Black DK.

Sew the head light onto the head.

Sew the head pieces together to form a cube, adding plenty of toy stuffing as you go.

Sew the top body piece (which now has the head attached) onto the other body pieces, adding toy stuffing as you go.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

Using Silver, make a magic loop, 4dc into loop.

Round 1 (RS) 2dc in each st. [8 sts]

Round 2 (1dc, 2dc in the next st) 4 times. [12 sts]

Round 3 Dc in the back loop only of each st.

Change to Sorbet.

Rounds 4-35 Dc in each dc, alternating between Silver and Sorbet every 2 rounds. Ss to next st.

Fasten off.

Add a little toy stuffing in the ends of the arms.

HANDS (MAKE 2)

Using Silver, ch11.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end, turn. [10 sts]

Row 2 Ch1, 1dc, 4htr, 4tr, 1tr.

Fasten off.

Fold each hand in half, sew onto the ends of the arms.

TO MAKE UP

Measure a piece of plastic-coated garden wire so that when it's folded in half it's as long as both of the arms and the width of the body.

Fold over the ends of the wire slightly to stop them poking through the fabric. Put the wire in the first arm then through the body so that it comes out the other side where the second arm will be.

Sew the first arm securely into place on the body. Put the second arm onto the wire and sew it into place. The arms can now be bent into whatever position you like. Sew the legs securely into place on the bottom of the body.



Practise changing yarns to make all the colourful stripes, buttons and panels.



One pair of nifty clippy grippers is all that this robot chap needs to hold on tight.



His stubby little robot legs are worked in two colours to form stylish stripes.

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JUST FOR FUN

Amigurumi plus! Hook jazzy fashion accessories,
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FIVE A DAY

Apple (or orange) for teacher? Brighten up a dusty desk by crocheting Sandrine Deveze's super-cute fruit-shaped paperweights.

Fresh fruits



DOUBLE
CROCHET



4PLY
WEIGHT



3MM
HOOK

YOU WILL NEED

- DMC, Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m), 1 each of: Light Green (N12), Moss Green (N75), Safran (N47)
- DMC, Lumina metallic thread (60% viscose/40% metalised polyester, 20g/150m), 1 ball Gold (L677)
- DMC, Cotton Perle no 5 (100% cotton, 100g/400m), 1 ball Golden (5742)
- A 6mm (UK 4, US J/10) hook
- A 3mm (UK 10, US D/3) hook
- A 1.5mm (US steel 8) hook
- Stitch marker
- A medium and a very long tapestry needle
- Sewing needle
- Scissors
- Black sewing thread
- 2 pairs 6mm black safety eyes
- Polyester toy stuffing or beans
- Coloured red pencil
- Small piece of fabric

For yarn stockists, contact
DMC 0116 275 4000
www.dmccreative.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

Apple approx 10cm (4in) tall
Orange approx 10cm (4in) tall
Pear approx 17cm (16¾in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.



Gold thread adds a touch of luxury to stalks and leaves.

When it's back to school time, you'll want to take an apple for teacher (or just keep it for yourself). These adorable kawaii-style and gold-leafed desk buddies will be much appreciated – they're perfect to brighten anyone's day. Turn them into paperweights by filling them with beans, or make them for children by stuffing with polyester filling.

They're ideal for beginners as they only use simple stitches, and the DMC yarn is easy to source – or you can swap for any other 4ply cotton yarn you have in your stash.

Your fruit pals will add a little zest to your favourite desk, windowsill or shelf.

NOTES

Each of the pieces is worked from the top downwards.

The main body of each piece is made using 2 strands of yarn held together using a 6mm hook. The leaves, cheeks and embellishments are made using a single strand of yarn and either a 3mm or a 1.5mm hook.

Tension isn't important – just make sure no stuffing pokes through and it's dense enough to stand up on its own.

C APPLE

Using Light Green (2 strands together) and 6mm hook, make a magic loop.

Round 1 6dc into magic loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc in next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 2 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 5 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 6 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 4 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 7 Dc in each st around. [36 sts]

Round 8 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 5 sts) 6 times. [42 sts]

Rounds 9 Dc in each st around. [42 sts]

Round 10 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 5 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

If using safety eyes, you can insert them now. Insert them 9 sts apart, between Rounds 10 and 11.

Rounds 11-14 Dc in each st around. [36 sts]

Round 15 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 4 sts) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rounds 16-18 Dc in each st around. [30 sts]

Round 19 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 20 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next

Fresh fruits



You can either
embroider the eyes
or fix in safety eyes.

2 sts) 6 times. [18 sts]

Stuff the apple.

Round 21 (Dc2tog, 1dc in next st) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 22 Dc2tog 6 times.

Fasten off, sew the end through the top of the last 6 sts and pull tight. Break yarn leaving a long tail to form the apple (approx 40cm).

PEAR

Using Moss Green (2 strands together) and 6mm hook, make magic loop.

Round 1 6dc into magic loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc in next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Rounds 4 and 5 Dc in each st around. [18 sts]

Round 6 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 2 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

Rounds 7-9 Dc in each st around. [24 sts]

Round 10 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rounds 11-15 Dc in each st around. [30 sts]

Round 16 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 4 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 17 Dc in each st around. [36 sts]

Round 18 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 5 sts) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 19 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 6 sts) 6 times. [48 sts]

Round 20 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 7 sts) 6 times. [54 sts]

Rounds 21-25 Dc in each st around. [54 sts]

If using safety eyes, you can insert them now. Insert them 9 sts apart, between Rounds 21 and 22.

Round 26 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 7 sts) 6 times. [48 sts]

Round 27 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 6 sts) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 28 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 5 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Stuff the pear.

Round 29 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 4 sts) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 30 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 31 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 2 sts) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 32 (Dc2tog, 1dc in next st) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 33 Dc2tog 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off, sew the end through the top of the last 6 sts and pull tight. Break yarn leaving a long tail to form the pear (approx 45cm).

SHAPING THE APPLE AND PEAR

Using a long yarn needle and the long tail end from the apple (or the pear), pass the yarn from the bottom up through the centre of the apple to the starting ring at the top. Then insert

Fresh fruits



Leave a long tail on the stalk to use for sewing it on.



Blanket stitch makes lovely eyelashes.

the yarn needle at the top, one stitch away from where it came out of the apple/pear, and pass the yarn end back down through the apple/pear to the bottom. Draw the yarn tight until you like the shape of the fruit and the top dimple stays in place. Knot the yarn at the bottom of the apple so it stays in this position.

Then repeat this horizontally by passing the yarn end through the apple/pear, making sure it comes out somewhere along the apple's/pear's side. Draw the yarn tight and snip the end close to the apple/pear. The yarn end should retract itself back inside the apple/pear after it's cut, hiding it from view.

CHEEKS (FOR THE PEAR)

Using DMC Cotton Perle yarn and a 1.5mm hook, make a magic loop.

Round 1 6dc into magic loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc in next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Using the tail, sew the cheeks to the pear.

ORANGE

Using Safran (2 strands together) and 6mm hook, make a magic loop.

Round 1 6dc into magic loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc in next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 2 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 5 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 6 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 4 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 7 Dc in each st around. [36 sts]

Round 8 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 5 sts) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 9 (2dc in next st, 1dc in each of next 6 sts) 6 times. [48 sts]

Rounds 10-14 Dc in each st around. [48 sts]

Round 15 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 6 sts) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 16 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 5 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 17 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 4 sts) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 18 Dc in each st around. [30 sts]
Round 19 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 20 (Dc2tog, 1dc in each of next 2 sts) 6 times. [18 sts]

Stuff the orange.

Round 21 (Dc2tog, 1dc in next st) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 22 Dc2tog 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off, sew the end through the top of the last 6 sts and pull tight. Break the yarn, leaving a long tail.

STEM (ALL FRUIT)

Using DMC Lumina yarn and a 3mm hook, ch12, dc in second ch from hook, dc in each of next 10 ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail to sew the stem to the fruit.

LEAF (ALL FRUIT)

Using DMC Lumina yarn and a 3mm hook, ch10, dc in second ch from hook, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, dtr in each of next 3 ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, 2dc in last ch. Turn to work along the other side of the foundation ch, dc in next ch, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, dtr in each of next 3 ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, dc in last ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail to sew the leaf to the fruit.

TO FINISH

Sew the golden stem and leaf on the top of each fruit using the images as a guide. Sew in all yarn ends.

Design a face for your fruit. Using a sewing needle and black thread, embroider the nose, the mouth and the eyes to your design.

For the apple, rub a red coloured pencil on the small piece of fabric. Then, rub the fabric on the cheeks of the apple's face to colour them.

TUTTI FRUTTI

Add a playful touch of colour to your bag with Lara Messer's sassy pompom key ring charm.



Bag decoration



YOU WILL NEED

- DMC Petra 3 (100% cotton, 100g/280m), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Yellow (5727)
 - Yarn B Orange (5722)
 - Yarn C Red (5666)
 - Yarn D Lime Green (5907)
 - Yarn E Grass Green (5905)
 - Yarn F Brown (5434)
 - Yarn G Peach (53326)
- DMC Natura Just Cotton (100% cotton, 50g/155m)
 - 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn H Bleu Layette (N05)
 - Yarn I Rose Layette (N06)
 - Yarn J Tournesol (N16)
 - Yarn K Lima (N76)
- A 2.5mm (US B/1 or C/2) hook
- Toy stuffing
- Key ring

For yarn stockists, contact
DMC 0116 275 4000
www.dmccreative.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

26cm (10¼in) long

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

Here's a novel way to get your five a day, with a colourful fruit and pompom amigurumi bag charm. We reckon any rucksack or handbag can be livened up with a bit of whimsy. Cute mini lemons, anyone?

NOTE

It's really simple to make the pompoms that go on your bag charm – take a look at this video to find out just how easy it is: www.molliemakes.com/craft-2/how-to-make-tiny-pom-poms/

C MINI LEMON (MAKE 3)

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) 6dc into loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 Dc in each dc around.

Round 3 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 4 Dc in each dc around.

Turn lemon inside out so tail is inside work – this gives pointed end of lemon.

Round 5 (Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Rounds 6-8 Dc in each dc around.

Round 9 (Dc in next st, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Stuff lemon with toy stuffing.

Round 10 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Round 11 (Dc2tog) 3 times, ss to first st to join. [3 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

LEMON LEAF (MAKE 3)

Using Yarn D or E, ch5.

Round 1 (RS) Ss into 2nd ch from hook, dc in next ch, htr in next ch, 5htr in last ch, working back along other side of ch, htr in next ch, dc in next ch, ss to last ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail to secure to top of the lemon.

MINI ORANGE (MAKE 1)

Using Yarn B, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 7dc into 2nd ch from hook. [7 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [14 sts]

Round 3 (Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) 7 times. [21 sts]

Rounds 4-8 Dc in each dc around.

Round 9 (Dc in next st, dc2tog) 7 times. [14 sts]

Stuff orange with toy stuffing.

Round 10 (Dc2tog) 7 times. [7 sts]

Fasten off and weave end through all sts in Round 10 and pull tight.

Weave in all ends.

ORANGE LEAF (MAKE 1)

Using Yarn D or E, ch5.

Round 1 (RS) Ss into 2nd ch from hook, dc in next 2 ch, 5dc in last ch, working back along the other side of the chain, dc in next 2 ch, ss to last ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail to secure to top of the orange.

MINI APPLE (MAKE 1)

Using Yarn C, ch2.

Round 1 (RS) 6dc into 2nd ch from hook. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each dc around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (Dc in next dc, 2dc in next dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Rounds 4-8 Dc in each dc around.

Round 9 (Dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog) twice. [16 sts]

Stuff apple with toy stuffing.

Round 10 (Dc2tog) 8 times. [8 sts]

Fasten off and weave in ends.

APPLE LEAF (MAKE 1)

Using Yarn D or E, ch5.

Round 1 (RS) Ss into 2nd ch from hook, dc in next 2 ch, 4dc in last ch, working back along the other side of the chain, dc in next 2 ch, ss to last ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail to secure to top of the apple.

APPLE STEM (MAKE 1)

Using Yarn F, ch5.

Round 1 (RS) Ss into 2nd ch from hook, ss into next 3 ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail to secure to top of the apple.

TO MAKE UP

Make 1 pompom in each of Yarn H, I, J and K, leaving a long tail to secure to key chain.

Using 2 strands of Yarn G and leaving a long starting tail, *ch10, add a pompom or piece of fruit by threading the tail end of the pompom through the ch and securing, or ss to the top of the fruit; rep from * until 2 fruits and 2 pompoms are added.

Make another chain, repeating the process and add the remaining pompoms and fruit.

Wrap the starting tail ends of the chains around a key ring several times and secure in place with a knot.

Weave in the ends.

HATS OFF!

Keep pins nice and neat with a very cute pincushion by Hannah Davis.



Hat pincushion



YOU WILL NEED

- Stylecraft Special DK (100% acrylic, 100g/295m)
1 ball of Parchment (1218)
oddments of: Magenta (1084), Fondant (1241), Shrimp (1132), Meadow (1065)
- A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
- Stuffing (such as wadding or cotton wool balls)
- Coins or other small items to use as weights
- Stitch marker (optional)

For yarn stockists, contact
Stylecraft 01535 609798
www.stylecraft-yarns.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

10cm (4in) diameter

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.

For your craft space, or as a pretty gift for a fellow stitcher, this sweet hat-shaped pincushion by Hannah Davis fits the bill. It's worked using simple amigurumi and is adorned with three summery flowers and leaves that you can easily make from scraps of yarn in your stash. Pack the wadding tightly inside the hat (you can use cotton wool balls or polyester wadding) to give it a good shape and to support your pins.

C BASE AND BRIM

With Parchment, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into loop.

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 dc]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 dc]

Round 4 (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times. [24 dc]

Round 5 (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times. [30 dc]

Round 6 (2dc in next st, 4dc) 6 times. [36 dc]

Round 7 Working in back loops only for this round, (2dc in next st, 5dc) 6 times. [42 dc]

Round 8 (2dc in next st, 6dc) 6 times. [48 dc]

Round 9 Rep Round 3. [72 dc]

Round 10 Dc in each st around.

Round 11 Rep Round 4. [96 dc]

Round 12 Dc in each st around, ss to next st.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

HAT

Attach Parchment to front loops left visible by Round 7.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each loop around. [36 sts]

Rounds 2-4 Changing to Magenta, dc in each st around.

Rounds 5-6 Change to Parchment, dc in each st around.

Round 7 (Dc2tog, 4dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 8 Dc in each st around.

Round 9 (Dc2tog, 3dc) 6 times. [24 sts]
Place small coins or weights at the bottom of hat to stabilise, then fill rest of space inside hat with stuffing.

Round 10 (Dc2tog, 2dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 11 (Dc2tog, 1dc) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 12 (Dc2tog) 6 times.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

FLOWERS (MAKE 3)

Make 2 in Fondant, 1 in Shrimp.

Make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into loop.

Round 2 (1dc in next st, ch3) 5 times, ss to first dc.

Fasten off, leaving yarn tails for attaching flowers to hat.

LEAVES (MAKE 2)

With Meadow, make a magic loop.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in loop, ch3, ss in first ch, dc in loop.

Fasten off leaving yarn tails for attaching leaves to flowers.

TO MAKE UP

Attach a leaf to each Fondant flower and attach to the hat using yarn tails, leaving space for Shrimp flower. Attach Shrimp flower in front of Fondant flowers. Weave in ends.



A FEW OF HANNAH'S FAVOURITE THINGS

"I first learnt to crochet when I was around 17, so about eight, maybe nine years ago. I'm quite an anxious person so having something to do with my hands is a great de-stressor. I do love a hobby that's productive and enjoyable, too."

"Bigger projects that take time, like blankets, are my faves because you get such a sense

of accomplishment when they're complete. My biggest crochet achievement has been making the As-We-Go Stripey Blanket tutorial from my summer crochet-along (inspired by Julie Harrison's blanket on her Little Woollie blog). I spent a lot of time planning, taking photos and writing up the pattern,

and I'm very pleased with the result. At the moment I'm working on another ripple throw blanket using the Neat Ripple Pattern from Attic24, and I'm also trying to design some new patterns, too!

"I started blogging out of a desire to document how I grow as a crocheter, as well as to make connections with

other crocheters. My advice to aspiring bloggers would be to keep it real and fun. Don't worry about what other people might say about you or your work – the online crochet and knitting community is very supportive!"

Find out more about Hannah's makes on her blog at www.notyouraveragecrochet.com

SANTA'S HELPER

Make Christmas merrier with this charming little chap by Ilaria Caliri.



Festive elf



YOU WILL NEED

- Rico Essentials Cotton DK (100% cotton, 50g/130m), 1 ball of each:
 - Yarn A Red (002)
 - Yarn B Beige (091)
 - Yarn C Natural (051)
 - Yarn D Nougat (078)
 - Aran-weight yarn in brown (Yarn E)
 - A 3mm (US C/2 or D/3) hook
 - Safety eyes (about 6mm diameter)
 - 2 small white buttons
 - Black cotton thread
 - White waxed cord
 - Bell for hat
 - Tapestry needle
 - Polyester toy stuffing
- For yarn stockists, contact Rico www.rico-design.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

28cm (11in) tall

ABBREVIATIONS

Puff stitch (Yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop) 3 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

3-tr cluster (Yrh, insert hook in st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 3 times, inserting the hook in the same st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook.

tr3tog (Yrh, insert hook in next stitch, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 3 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

For a full list, see page 130.

This little festive dude, complete with jingle-bell hat, candy-striped leggings and teeny-tiny shoelaces, is sure to be a Christmas favourite. In traditional red and white, he'll bring plenty of seasonal cheer to your festivities for many Christmases to come. He's been working very hard all year to get those presents finished on time. Why not give him a happy new home or make one for a friend as a special gift?

NOTES

Body and Head are worked as one piece starting from the bottom of the Body. Legs, Arms, Hat and Bootees are sewed to the Body. Take your time when you embroider the mouth details and make sure you use a blunt-ended tapestry needle, which won't split the plies of the yarn.

SKIRT OF THE COAT

With Yarn A, ch31.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [30 sts]

Rows 2-10 Ch1 (does not count as st), 1dc in each dc to end, turn.

Fasten off.

BODY AND HEAD

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 5 (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Rounds 6-11 Dc in each dc.

Round 12 Align the top of the skirt of the coat with the last round of body and work each st of this round through both layers to join: dc in each dc.

Round 13 Dc in each dc.

Round 14 (Dc2tog, 3dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 15 Dc in each dc.

Round 16 5dc, dc2tog, 10dc, dc2tog, 5dc. [22 sts]

Round 17 Dc in each dc.

Round 18 4dc, dc2tog, 10dc, dc2tog, 4dc. [20 sts]

Round 19 (2dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [15 sts]

Round 20 (1dc, dc2tog) 5 times. [10 sts]

Stuff the Body. Change to Yarn B.

Round 21 Dc in each dc.

Round 22 (2dc in next st, 4dc) twice. [12 sts]

Round 23 (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 24 (2dc in next st, 2dc) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 25 (2dc in next st, 3dc) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 26 (2dc in next st, 4dc) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 27 (2dc in next st, 5dc) 6 times. [42 sts]

Rounds 28-33 Dc in each dc.

Round 34 (5dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 35 (4dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 36 (3dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 37 (2dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [18 sts]

Place the eyes between Rounds 28 and 29, approx 12 sts apart.

Stuff the head and continue stuffing as you go.

Round 38 (1dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [12 sts]

Round 39 (Dc2tog) 6 times. [6 sts]

Fasten off.

HAT

With Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 4dc into the loop. [4 sts]

Round 2 (2dc in next st, 1dc) twice. [6 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 2dc) twice. [8 sts]

Round 4 (2dc in next st, 3dc) twice. [10 sts]

Rounds 5-21 Continue increasing 2 sts evenly on each round in the same fashion. [44 sts]

Rounds 22-27 Dc in each dc.

Change to Yarn C.

Round 28 Dc in each dc.

Round 29 3dc, 1 puff stitch in each dc, ss to the first dc to join.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Turn up the last round and sew in this position.

HAIR

Cut 8cm lengths of Yarn E, fold in half and attach them on the head with a crochet hook (as a fringe). Attach them only at the front between the eyes. Sew

Festive elf

the hat to the head and attach a bell to the tip of the hat.
Embroider mouth with black thread between Rounds 26 and 27 of head.
Sew 2 buttons on the chest.

COLLAR

With Yarn C, ch16.

Row 1 (WS) Ch1 (does not count as st), (2dc in next st, 4dc) 3 times. [18 sts]

Row 2 (RS) Ch3 (does not count as st), 1 puff stitch in each st to end, ch3, ss to the first dc of the first row to join. [18 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail and use this to sew the Collar to the neck.

BELT

With Yarn D, ch31.

Row 1 (RS) Dc in the second ch from the hook and in each ch to end. [30 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail and use this to sew the belt to the body.

ARMS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn B, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 (2dc in next st, 2dc) twice. [8 sts]

Rounds 3-4 Dc in each dc.

Round 5 3-tr cluster in next st, 7dc.

Rounds 6-7 Dc in each dc.
Change to Yarn A.

Rounds 8-17 Dc in each dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Stuff the arm, join the top and sew to the body.

CUFFS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn C, ch14.

Row 1 (RS) 1 puff stitch in the fourth ch from the hook and in each ch to end. [11 sts]

Fasten off, leaving a tail and use this to sew the cuff to the wrist.

LEGS (MAKE 2)

With Yarn C, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 5dc into the loop. [5 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [10 sts]

Rounds 3-6 Dc in each dc.
Change to Yarn A.

Rounds 7-8 Dc in each dc.
Change to Yarn C.

Rounds 9-10 Dc in each dc.

Who could resist that little face? Use this image as a guide when stitching the features.



Continue to alternate 2 rounds of Yarn A with 2 rounds of Yarn C until a total of 24 rounds are complete.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Stuff the leg, join the top and sew to the bottom of the body.

BOOTEES (MAKE 2)

With Yarn D, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, 1dc) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 Dc in the back loop only of each dc.

Round 5 Dc in each dc.

Round 6 6dc, (tr3tog) twice, 6dc. [14 sts]

Rounds 7-9 Dc in each dc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail and use this to sew the bootees to the end of the legs. Make a bow on each boot with the white waxed cord.



The sweet puff stitches on the cuffs, collar and hat bring a touch of squashy texture.



This project is all about the details, so of course the tiny boots must have shoelaces.



SANTA BABY

Cara Medus' rotund Father Christmas is full of the festive spirit with his smiley face.

Jolly Santa



YOU WILL NEED

- Hayfield Bonus DK (100% acrylic, 100g/280m)
1 ball of each:
Signal Red (977)
White (961)
Peaches (888)
Black (965)
 - A 3.5mm (US E/4) hook
 - Small pieces of red and dark brown felt
 - Craft glue
 - Polyester toy stuffing
 - Stitch marker
- For yarn stockists, contact
Sirdar 01924 231682
www.sirdar.co.uk

MEASUREMENTS

9x17cm (3½x6¼in)

ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list, see page 130.



Short and sweet, this fun Father Christmas will help you to get confident with amigurumi. The double crochet stitches are worked in one continuous spiral – easy peasy.

BODY

With Signal Red, ch2.

Round 1 4dc in second ch from hook. [4 sts]

Round 2 (1dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [6 sts]

Round 2 (2dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [8 sts]

Round 3 (3dc, 2dc in next st) twice. [10 sts]

Cont in this way, increasing 2 sts each round. Work 17 rounds in total. [36 sts]

Fasten off Signal Red.

Next round Join White in first st of round. Working in back loops of sts only, dc around, increasing 2 sts evenly as before. Rem front loops will be used to attach hat brim later. [38 sts]

Next round Dc in each st around.

Next round Dc around, increasing 2 sts evenly. [40 sts]

Rep last 2 rounds once more. [42 sts]

Next round Dc in each st around.

Fasten off White.

Next round Join Signal Red in first st of round. Cont to alternate an increasing round as before, with a round of dc, until a total of 6 rounds of Signal Red have been worked. Do not fasten off. [48 sts]
To keep colour changes at back of toy, work extra sts of Signal Red before you join Black for foll rows, so that colour change is underneath prev colour change. Count first st of Black as new first st of round, moving marker to this st if necessary. Join Black in first st of round and work 2 rounds of dc.

Fasten off Black, pick up Signal Red.

DECREASING ROUNDS

Round 1 With Signal Red, (6dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 2 (5dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 3 (4dc, dc2tog) 6 times. [30 sts]

Stuff the body.

Cont decreasing 6 sts evenly each round in same fashion, until 6 sts rem.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail, top up stuffing, use yarn tail to sew hole closed.

HAT BRIM

Rejoin White at back in 1 of the remaining loops, facing towards hat.

Round 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around, ss to first dc to join. [36 sts]

Round 2 Ch1 (does not count as st), (5dc, 2dc in next st) 6 times, ss to first dc to join. [42 sts]

Round 3 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st around, ss to first dc to join.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Hat brim should curl over with WS facing to cover join between hat and head.

HAT BOBBLE

With White, ch2 leaving a long tail.

Round 1 6dc in second ch from hook.

Round 2 2dc in each st. [12 sts]

Round 3 Dc in each st around.

Round 4 (Dc2tog) 6 times.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Use tail of yarn to stuff bobble; with other tail sew bobble closed and sew to hat.

BEARD AND FACE

Row 1 Dc in second ch from hook and in each ch to end, turn. [12 sts]

Row 2 Dc2tog, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [10 sts]

Cont decreasing 1 st at each end of every row as last row until 2 sts rem. Work another 4 rows on these 2 sts.

Fasten off, leave long tail.

Turn work to join Peaches in first st of foundation ch.

Row 1 Ch1 (does not count as st), dc in each st of foundation ch to end, turn. [12 sts]

Row 2 Dc2tog, dc in each st to last 2 sts, dc2tog, turn. [10 sts]

Cont decreasing 1 st at each end of row until 6 sts rem. Work another row on these 2 sts.

Fasten off leaving long tail.

Use tail of Peaches to sew edges of face in place. Catch st from WS where face and beard join so face is sewn in place on all sides. Leave beard free without sewing to body. Roll up end of beard. Sew in place with tail end of White.

MOUSTACHE

With White, ch24, leaving a long tail.

Row 1 Ss in second ch from hook, (dc2tog) 3 times, htr, 2tr, htr, ss, htr, 2tr, htr, (dc2tog) 3 times, ss in final ch.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail.

Sew moustache in place at 2 ends and in centre only using tail ends of yarn.

TO FINISH

Cut small semi-circles of brown felt for eyes, and a larger semi-circle from red felt for mouth. Stick in place using glue.



All about Amigurumi

Creating cute critters and adorable toys is a great way to use your crochet skills, whether you make them for yourself or as gifts for all the family.

By Becky Skuse & Emma Clegg

Amigurumi toys are some of the most popular projects for crocheters

and it's easy to see why – they're high on aww-factor and low on difficulty, plus they make great gifts. In fact, many crocheters start learning the craft in order to make these adorable toys.

The trend for crocheted toys started in Japan with 'amigurumi', a word used to describe crocheted or knitted stuffed toys. In Japanese, 'ami' means 'crocheted or knitted', and 'nigurumi' means 'sew and wrap'. These cute dolls and animals soared in popularity during the 1970s in Japan, and it was from this craft form that the 'Hello Kitty' brand was born.

The original style of amigurumi toys had very specific characteristics: oversized heads; sweet, human-like features; a small,



cylindrical body; undersized arms and feet or no limbs at all. Many amigurumi toys have a head and body that is crocheted as one piece.

In the world of crochet nowadays, the word 'amigurumi' has come to describe any cute crocheted toy, whether or not it fits into that original amigurumi style.

Animals are the most popular toys,

but there are also dolls, aliens, plants, food, furnishings and more which are made into toys with human features.

Amigurumi is great for new crocheters because the toys are usually small and straightforward to make. The minimal amounts of yarn involved make them inexpensive and a great

portable project. Most only use double crochet stitches, worked in the round but in spiral rounds of stitches without closing off each round – we'll show you how to do this in the following pages.

The skills you'll need to work amigurumi patterns aren't very much different from usual crochet – they're just put together in a beautifully charming way. Mostly, you'll use double crochet, worked in the round starting with a magic loop, but there are a

few more techniques we'll show you how to do, to create perfect toys.

Don't worry if any of this sounds like a foreign language – everything you need to know is covered over the next few pages. Once you've got the hang of these techniques you'll be having fun making your own amigurumi friends.



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO MAKE PERFECT AMIGURUMI

Where to find the patterns in this book: Ninja page 57, Robot page 101, Red Riding Hood and Wolf page 68, Monster page 83, Fairy page 89



Getting started

You might find it useful to know a few basic facts about making amigurumi so you're armed with the best knowledge right from the beginning.

THE BASICS

Some essential information to make really great amigurumi.

DENSE FABRIC

Amigurumi toys are usually made using only double crochet stitches. The yarns involved are usually around DK in weight, with a hook that's smaller than you might normally use for that weight of yarn. All this helps to create a firm, dense fabric that won't allow the stuffing to show through.

SIMPLE TECHNIQUES

Amigurumi patterns may seem daunting, but they usually use simple techniques, most of which are covered here. You'll need to work double crochet stitches in the round (see page 128), but in spirals, which we'll also show you how to do



(page 129). You'll also find it helpful to use stitch markers to keep track of each spiral round, which you'll need to move up after each round.

Finally, you'll also need to work double crochet increases and decreases, which we covered on page 124.

SEWING AND STUFFING

Some amigurumi patterns involve crocheting lots of different pieces. It's a good idea to label each piece after you fasten off, so it's easier to identify the pieces when you come to sew them together. Some patterns will ask you to stuff the toy while you're sewing the pieces

together, or even while you're still crocheting. Always use specialist toy stuffing and insert small amounts at a time, adding more slowly until you achieve the right look. Your stuffing should be firm but not distort the fabric.

IN THE DETAIL

One of the most important parts of toy-making is the finishing detail,

especially on the face. Some patterns ask you to add these details with pieces of felt, buttons or embroidery threads and stitches. Take your time when finishing your creature and you'll really bring it to life.



Four to try – design ideas

Get your hook at the ready for these fab patterns from *Simply Crochet* magazine...



OINK OINK! BEGINNER

1 Start your amigurumi fun with this cute pig, by Cara Medus. He's super easy for beginners. Turn to page 40 for the pattern, then focus on bringing the face to life with felt, buttons and some embroidery details.



BEAR BROS! IMPROVER

2 Who could resist making these adorable little bears?! Brothers Tako-chan and Yako-chan are designed by Mei Li Lee. Their large heads and cute faces are pure amigurumi. Go to page 37 for the pattern.



ON FIRE! INTERMEDIATE

3 This dinky dragon will challenge your crochet and finishing ability. Designed by Stephanie Lau, he has wings, horns and a tail. He's a great 'next step' and the pattern and instructions for making him are on page 75.



HIGH TECH! EXPERT

4 Becky Garratt's friendly robot is put together from lots of little pieces – just like a real robot – so he'll challenge your crochet construction skills. You'll find the pattern for making him on page 101.

MAKE A PERFECT
GLOBE SHAPE!



CROCHET SPHERES

Perfect for making heads and rotund bodies.

SPHERE SHAPE

Most amigurumi creatures involve making a basic sphere shape, which is perfect for the heads and bodies of your toys.

Making spheres involves increasing the number of stitches on the first few rounds, working straight for a row or two, then decreasing the number of stitches on the last few rounds.

If you can make this shape, you can make almost any amigurumi toy.

SEAMLESS ROUNDS

To work a sphere, you need to work in the round. Start with a magic loop and work

the first round of stitches into the centre. This gives a tight closure at the 'poles' of the spheres and prevents stuffing from poking through. By working in the round, there will be no seams to sew up later – you can crochet the creature three-dimensionally and even stuff it as you go.

Spheres can be made to any size. Whether large or small, the size is determined by how many rows of increased, then decreased, stitches are worked.

TOP TIPS

Make your amigurumi the best they can be.

FIRM STUFFING

When stuffing, it's best to stick to specially-made polyester toy stuffing, which is available in most craft shops or online. When you're stuffing, do it slowly and gently, adding stuffing in small amounts until you achieve a neat, firm look. Don't overstuff or your toy will look misshapen.

SMALL FACES

Creating your creature's face will bring it to life so take extra care over this part. Personalise your toy with felt, buttons, fabric and embroidery. Try to plan ahead and don't be afraid to undo and rework any details if they don't look right.

CROCHET TUBES

Great for making limbs, fingers and snake-like shapes.

TUBE SHAPE

Many amigurumi toys involve crocheting basic tube shapes and you can see from the photo (right) that the tubes are ideal for the arms and legs of your amigurumi creature. Making tubes is very simple because they're worked straight. You simply work on the same number of stitches around and around

in a spiral. If you can make a sphere and this shape, you can make almost any amigurumi toy.

STUFF AS YOU GO

To work a tube like this, you need to work in the round. Start with a magic loop foundation ring and work the first round of stitches into the centre. Continue on these stitches, around and around. By working in the round, there will be no seams to sew up later – you can crochet the creature three-dimensionally and even stuff it as you go.

USING STITCH MARKERS

With tubes like this, you'll have a small number of stitches and a large number of spiral rounds to cope

with. You'll find it helpful to use a stitch marker to mark the start/end of each round and help you keep track of where you are in the pattern.

TUBES CAN
BE OPEN OR
CLOSED AT
EACH END!



If you plan to embroider on a tube shape, it's easiest to do so when you get to the row it will appear in, because the narrow shape will be difficult to get your fingers into later.



Crochet basics

Over the next few pages, you'll find simple step-by-step guides to many useful stitches and techniques that you'll use every time you pick up a hook.

HOLDING THE HOOK

Try these methods and see which works best.



PENCIL METHOD

Hold the hook like a pencil, in your right hand (if you're right-handed), about 3-5cm from the hooked end. If your hook has a flat area, you'll find it comfortable to hold it here.



KNIFE METHOD

Hold the hook between your thumb and forefinger, about 3-5cm from the hooked end, resting the end of the hook against your palm. This will give you lots of control.

HOLDING THE YARN

Even tension results in even stitches.



METHOD ONE

Pass the ball end of the yarn between the little finger and third fingers of your left hand (if you are right-handed), then behind the third and middle fingers, over your index finger.



METHOD TWO

Loop the ball end of the yarn loosely around the little finger of your left hand, then take it over the third finger, behind the middle finger and over your index finger.

MAKING A SLIPKNOT The first loop on the hook.



1 Hold the tail of the ball of yarn in your left hand and drape the yarn clockwise over the top of it to form a circular loop.



2 Hold the loop between left thumb and forefinger, then insert the crochet hook through the centre of the loop from front to back.



3 Catch the ball end of the yarn with the hook and pull it back through the centre of the loop, taking the yarn through with it.



4 Pull both ends of the yarn to tighten the knot, then pull just the ball end to tighten the loop so it's close to the hook, but not touching it.

How to count



Each chain or loop counts as one stitch. Never count your first slipknot or the loop on the hook (called the working loop). So that you can be accurate, make sure the chain is not twisted and that the front is facing you.

CHAIN STITCH Use this stitch to make your foundation chain.



1 Hold the hook in your right hand, and both the yarn end and the working yarn in your left hand. Move the hook under and over the yarn to wrap it around anticlockwise.



2 Pull the hook towards the slipknot, catching the yarn in the hook, and pulling it through the slipknot loop. This forms your first chain (ch) stitch. Repeat steps 1 and 2 to form a chain length.



3 This is what your row of chains will look like. Hold the chain with your left hand near the hook, to keep the tension. Keep going until you have the number of chains stated in your pattern.

SLIP STITCH (ss)

This stitch has no height – often used to join rounds.



1 The slip stitch is used to join a length of chain into the round. Insert the hook from front to back into the first chain you worked. Wrap yarn round the hook (yrh) in an anticlockwise direction.



2 Pull the yarn through the chain stitch (as shown) and then the loop already on the hook to make a slip stitch. You can also work this stitch into each stitch along a row to form a neat edging.

WORKING IN ROWS

Follow these simple rules to construct crochet fabric.



1 The first row is made by working across the foundation chain from right to left. At the end of the chain or row, turn the work so that the yarn is behind the hook.



2 For the next row, first make the turning chain for the stitch you're about to work (see opposite). Now work the next stitch into the top of the stitches on your first row, missing the first stitch.

DOUBLE CROCHET (dc) US term: single crochet

One of the key stitches in crochet, doubles are simple, compact stitches that form a dense fabric.



1 To make a double crochet stitch, insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch on the previous row.



2 Wind the yarn around the hook (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch, giving you two loops on your crochet hook.



4 Yarn round hook again, then pull the yarn through both loops. There's your double crochet made and you'll have one loop left on the hook, ready to do the next stitch.

If you're left-handed go to www.simplycrochetmag.com for tutorials

HALF TREBLE CROCHET (htr) US term: half double crochet

A handy stitch that's between double and treble crochet in size, and it looks slightly looser than double crochet.



1 To make a half treble crochet stitch, work to where you want the htr and then wind the yarn round the hook (yrh).



2 Insert the hook under the top two loops of the next stitch in the previous row. Wrap yarn around the hook again (yrh).



3 Pull the yarn through the stitch only (3 loops on hook).



4 Yarn round hook again, pull the yarn through all 3 loops, and you've made a half treble crochet.

TREBLE CROCHET (tr) US term: double crochet

One of the most popular stitches in crochet, this simple stitch is twice as high as a double crochet stitch.



1 To work a treble crochet, start by winding yrh and then insert the hook under the top two loops of the stitch on the previous row.



2 Wrap the yarn around the hook (yrh) and pull the yarn through the stitch only.



3 You will now have 3 loops on the hook. Yrh again, and draw the yarn through just the first 2 loops on the hook.



4 You will now have 2 loops on the hook. Yrh again and draw the yarn through the remaining loops on the hook. Your treble crochet is complete.

INCREASING AND DECREASING

Shaping stitches are vital for making garments.



INCREASE To increase one stitch is very simple – work one stitch into the next stitch on the row below. When you've finished, work another stitch into the same stitch.



DECREASE For a quick decrease, just skip one stitch. For a neater look, work the first part of one stitch and then begin the next stitch. Finish both together.

HOW TO GET A PERFECT FINISH

To prevent your hard work unravelling once you've finished crocheting, fasten the end off carefully.



Complete the final stitch, then cut the yarn about 15cm from the work. Pull it through the last loop on the hook and pull to close the loop. Thread the yarn tail onto a tapestry needle and weave into the back of the work. Most crochet items don't need a lot of blocking, but cotton lace

work usually does. To do this, carefully pin out the item with rust-proof pins, mist with a water spray and leave to dry naturally.

How to count stitches

Check your work is correct.



Being able to count your stitches is very important and helps you to ensure that you're following a pattern correctly. It's a good idea to count your stitches at the end of every row. To count short stitches such as double crochet, look at the plaited tops (see above left). For taller stitches, count the upright 'stems' – each 'stem' is counted as a stitch (see left).

TURNING CHAIN (t-ch)

For an even finish, start each row with a turning chain.

In crochet, you need to add turning chains (t-chs) to the beginning of rows. The reason for this is to bring the hook up to the height of the stitches you're crocheting. Each basic stitch has its own number of

chains. The table below tells you how many t-ch sts form the first stitch. *For dc, usually the turning chain does not count as a stitch, and the first stitch of the row is worked into the stitch at the base of the turning chain.

STITCH	Add to foundation chain before starting row	Skip at start of foundation row (counts as first st)	For turning chain (counts as first st)
Double crochet	1 ch	1 ch*	1 ch*
Half treble	1 ch	2 ch	2 ch
Treble	2 ch	3 ch	3 ch
Double treble	3 ch	4 ch	4 ch
Triple treble	4 ch	5 ch	5 ch

HOW TO CHANGE COLOUR

Create stripes and other colour effects.



1 Before you work the final yrh (yarn round hook) on the last stitch of a row in the old colour, drop the old yarn and pick up the new one with your hook.



2 Pull through a loop of the new yarn to finish the old stitch. The working loop will be in the new colour. Continue, keeping the old yarn at the wrong side.

FOUNDATION RING

Create a foundation ring for working in the round.



1 Make a chain the length stated in the pattern instructions. Next, insert the crochet hook into the first chain. Close the ring with a slip stitch, working yrh...



2 ...and pull yarn through 2 loops on hook. Now you're ready to start crocheting in the round, following the instructions given below.

WORKING STITCHES INTO A RING

Make circles, tubes and other shapes by working simple rounds of crochet stitches.



1 Make a foundation ring (as described above right) and then work the correct number of chains for the t-ch, for example, 3ch for a treble.



2 Now work the stitch as you would on a row, but insert the hook into the centre of the ring rather than each chain loop. For a treble, yrh, insert into the ring.



3 Continue with the treble stitch, working in the same way as you would on a row. So yrh and pull yarn through the loop. Then yrh and pull yarn through first 2 loops.



4 Finish off the treble stitch by working yrh and pull yarn through 2 loops. Continue making stitches into the ring as instructed in your pattern.

JOINING ROUNDS

Finish off each round of crochet stitches nice and neatly by using a slip stitch.



1 To close a round of stitches, work a slip stitch into the top of the turning chain. To do this, insert the hook into the top stitch of the turning chain.



2 Then place the yarn round the hook. Pull the yarn through the turning chain stitch and through the original stitch on your hook.



3 You've slip stitched the round together! Before working another round, be sure to make the required turning chain. Always work rounds on the right side, unless your pattern instructs you otherwise.

Rounds or spirals



Check which technique to use.

Some patterns are worked in rounds that are joined together at the end of each round (see left). Other patterns are worked in a spiral so you don't need to join the rounds at the end, just keep going, working into the next stitch on the previous row. Amigurumi toys are often worked in a spiral like this.

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SEWING SEAMS

You can join crochet seams by using a tapestry needle or a crochet hook, using one of these four methods.



1 Sewing with a tapestry needle is the regular and neat way to join seams. Place two pieces of crochet right sides together and oversew them as shown above, using a tapestry or yarn needle.



2 To slip stitch a seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together. *Insert hook into both edge stitches, yrh and pull through to complete 1 slip stitch; rep from * working into the next edge stitches, keeping work fairly loose.



3 For a dc seam, place the crochet pieces right sides together, or wrong sides together for a visible seam. Work as for slip stitch seam, using double crochet instead of slip stitch.



4 A useful variation on the dc seam, the dc and chain seam is used when less bulk and/or greater flexibility is needed. Work 1 double crochet and 1 chain alternately.

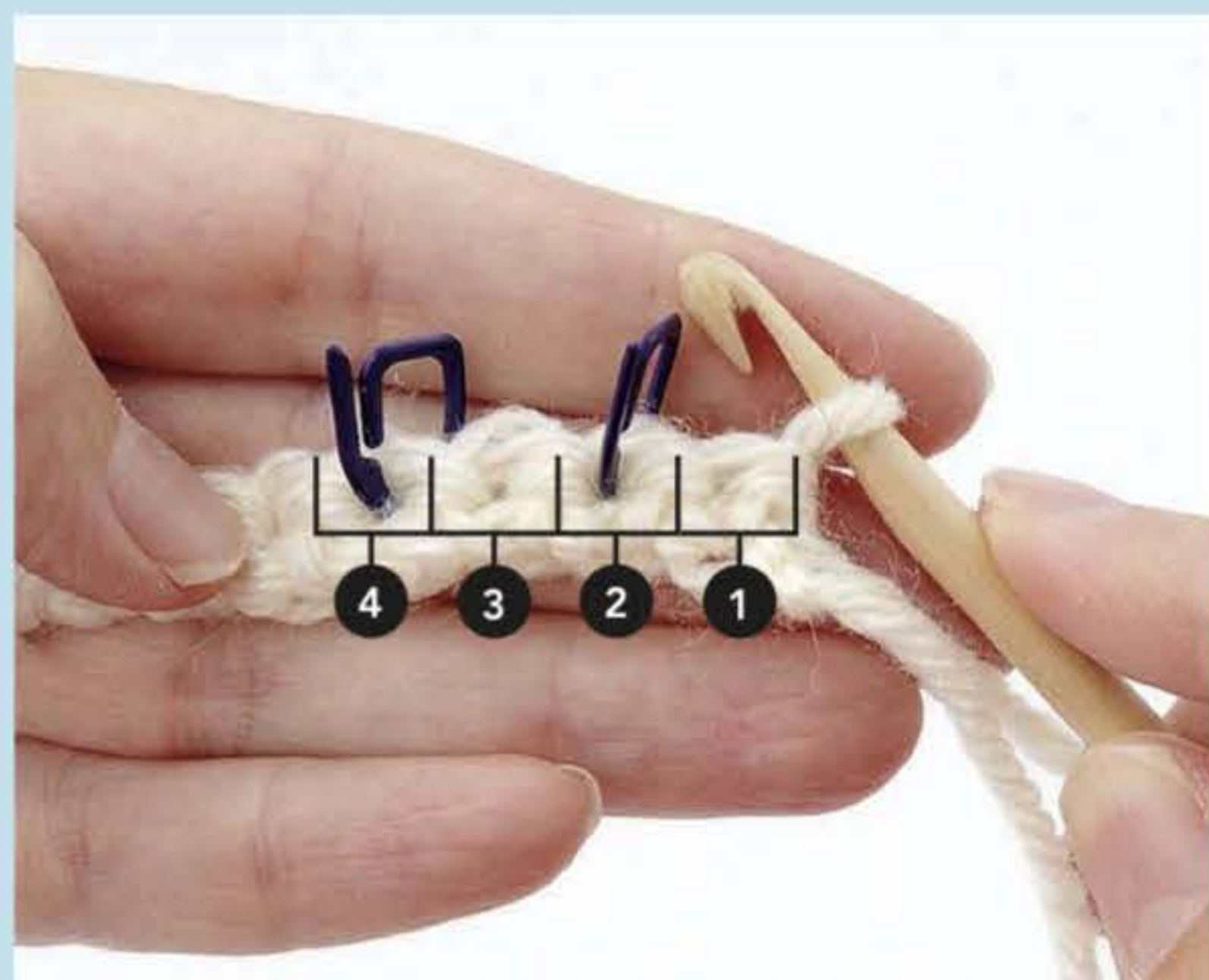
Using stitch markers

How to keep track of spiral rounds...

With any crochet pattern, it's vital that you can count your stitches. One way to make that easier is to use stitch markers. The picture (right) shows a simple row of double crochet stitches, with stitch markers in the second and fourth stitches. The numbers show how to count the stitches in the row.

Stitch markers are also helpful when you're working spirals of stitches in amigurumi. Place a stitch marker in the first stitch of the round to make it clear when you finish a round of the pattern you're using. Move the marker up after every round to help you keep track of each round.

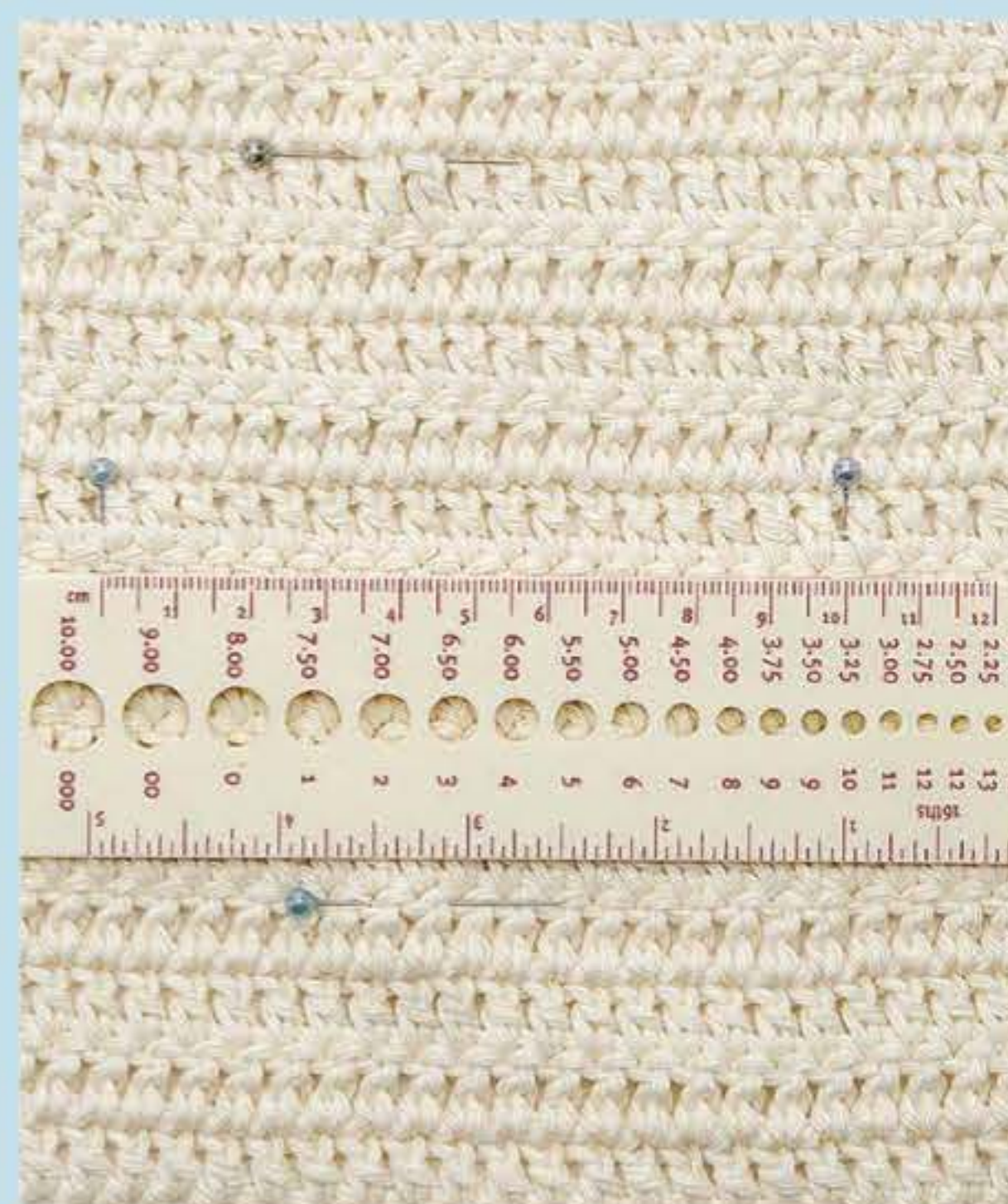
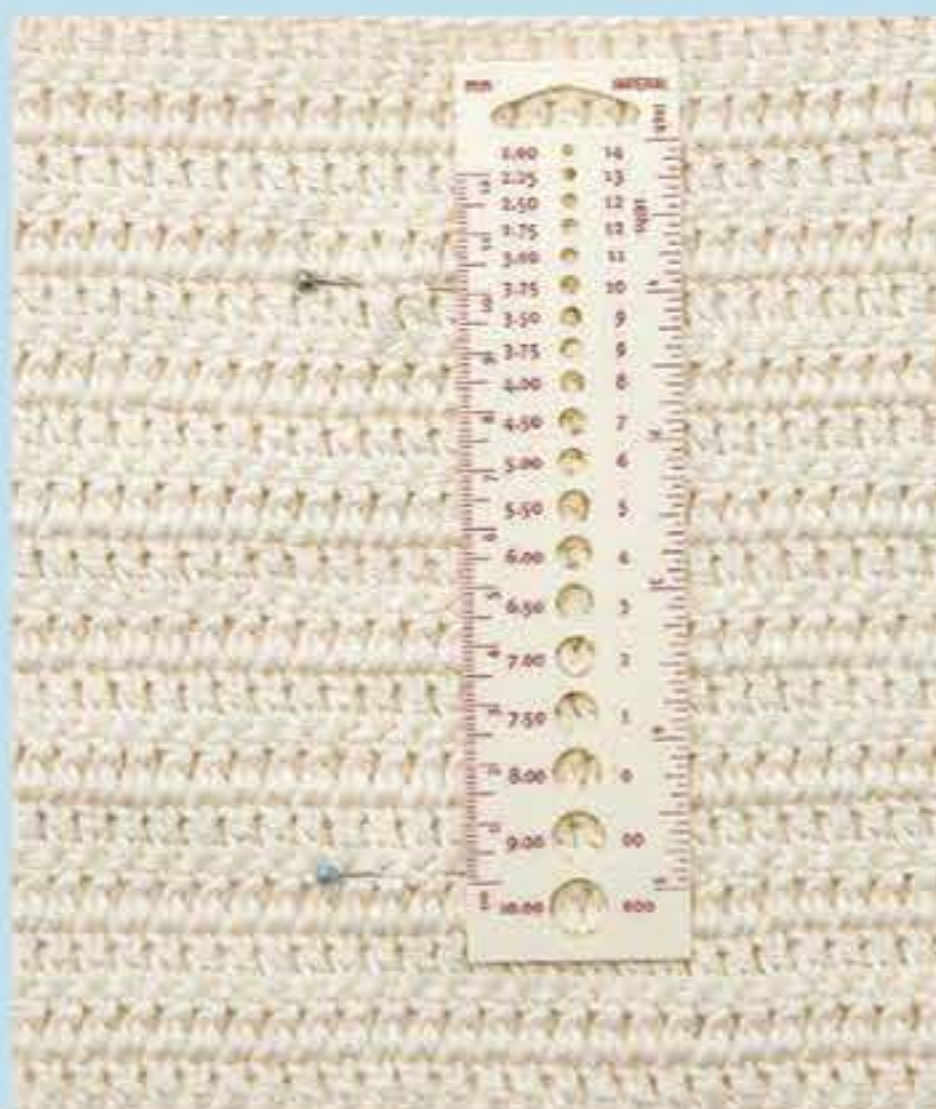
Another great way to use stitch markers is to mark stitches where you need to make increases or decreases. Try using one colour of marker for working increases and another for decreases.



How to check your tension

Make and measure a swatch to check your tension.

Some crochet patterns state the tension required, in rows and stitches of a specific type. Make a swatch at least 15cm square and check that your tension matches. Place a ruler across the swatch and insert two pins, 10cm apart. Then place the ruler along a column of stitches and insert two pins 10cm apart. Count the stitches and rows between the pins – if you have less than the pattern, your tension is too loose so you need to use a smaller hook, but if you have too many, use a larger hook. It's usually better to match the stitches than rows, because you can often work more or fewer rows.





Magic loop

This is a popular method to start working in the round.

The magic loop method is a common way to start working in the round. It's particularly popular for making toys – we'll show you how to do it below. You might need to practise it a few times to get the hang of it, but you'll soon learn to love it!

The magic loop method (also called the drawstring loop)



involves making a simple loop of yarn and then working your first round of stitches into that loop.

You don't need to make a slipknot with this method and you can work as many stitches into the ring on the first round as you need to. You can even start with larger stitches than double crochet, such as half trebles



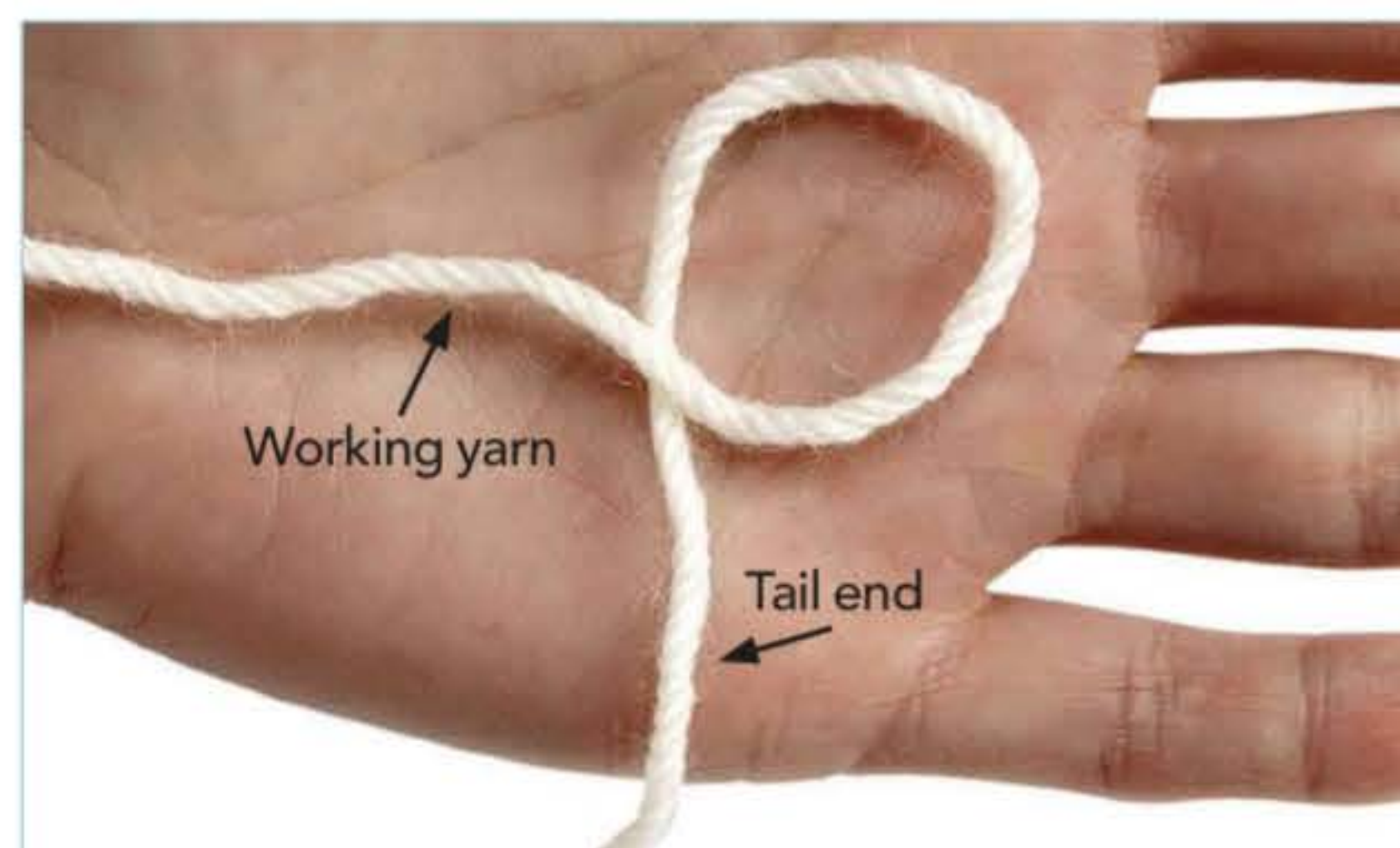
or trebles, which can be worked into the centre.

After working the last stitch of the first round, you simply pull on the tail end of the yarn to tighten the loop, as if by magic!

The finished magic loop ring will have no hole at the centre, which is useful for projects like stuffed toys where you don't want stuffing to poke out of any gaps.

MAKING A MAGIC LOOP

Follow these steps to master the magic loop.



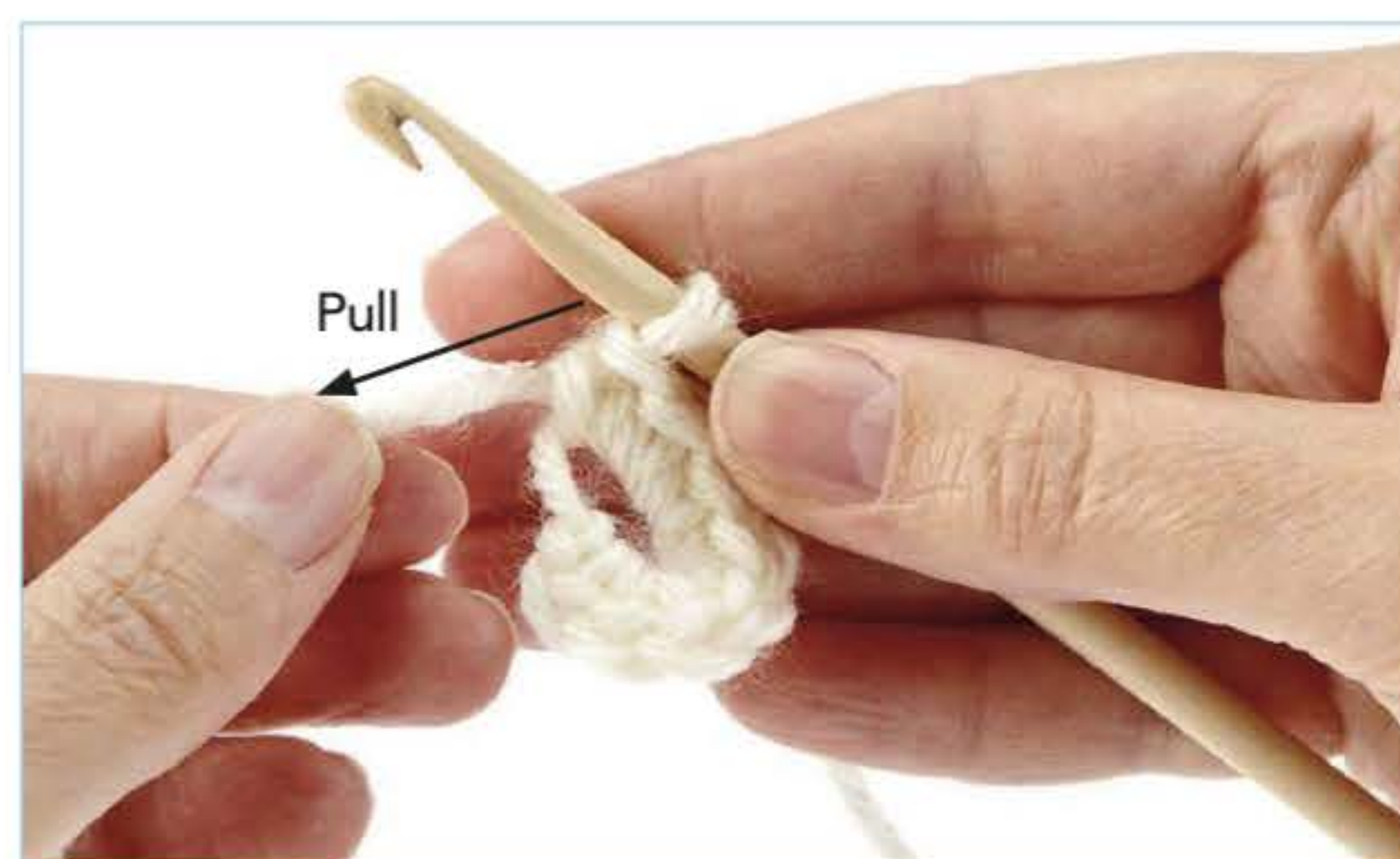
1 To start a magic loop, don't make a slipknot. Instead, make a loop with the yarn, leaving a tail around 10cm long. Make sure the tail end of yarn lies underneath the strand of working yarn.



2 Now insert your hook into the loop, from front to back. Wrap the working yarn around the hook anticlockwise and pull the yarn through the magic loop.



3 Make the turning chain (above, we made one turning chain, ready for dc stitches). Work the stitches into the loop, making sure they are all worked over both the loop itself and the tail end (so two strands of yarn).



4 Once you've worked the number of stitches you need, pull on the tail end of the yarn to draw up the ring – magic! Close the round with a slip stitch or work a dc in the first dc to work in spiral rounds.

If you're left-handed go to www.simplycrochetmag.com for tutorials



Double crochet rounds

How to work the first round in double crochet.



Once you have a foundation ring, you can make the first round of stitches.

We'll show you how to work the first round in double crochet below.

The rules for working in the round are simple, although some patterns differ, so always follow the instructions in the pattern you're using.



Whichever stitch you're using, you'll need to make a turning chain at the start of each round (see page 124 for number of chains per stitch type). Then you can work the stitches of that round. At the end of every round, join the last stitch to the first stitch using a slip stitch (we'll show you how below).



On the first round of a long foundation ring, you work each stitch into each chain as usual, starting from the second chain from the hook. On the first round of a small ring, insert the hook into the gap at the centre of the ring and work stitches here instead of into each chain (remembering to do a turning chain first).

WORKING IN THE ROUND

Follow these steps to work the first round of double crochet.



1 Make a basic foundation ring and don't turn the work. Make one turning chain for double crochet (does not count as stitch). To start your first double crochet stitch, insert the hook into the centre of the ring.



2 Work yarn round hook and pull yarn through the centre of the foundation ring (two loops on hook). Finish the stitch as usual (yarn round hook again, pull yarn through remaining two loops on hook).



3 Work more double crochet stitches in the same way (inserting hook into the centre of the ring), as instructed in your pattern, pushing the stitches closer if you need to.



4 After the last stitch, insert hook under the top two loops of the first double crochet stitch (not the turning chain). Work a slip stitch (yrh, pull through both loops).



Work in spirals

How to work in the round using the amigurumi method.

When you work amigurumi toys, most patterns ask you to work your stitches in the round, but in a spiral shape rather than individual circles (with the spiral method it's a good idea to mark each round with stitch markers).

To start off, you'll still need to make a foundation ring – the magic

loop is best because it leaves no hole at the centre (see page 127 for how to make a magic loop).

If you prefer, you could work a different type of foundation ring, such as a basic ring (see page 125), but you may need to sew up the hole at the centre before stuffing. Once you have your



foundation ring, make a turning chain (t-ch) and work your first round of double crochet into the ring.

To practise the spiral technique, try working 12 or so dc stitches. Stop after you've worked the last stitch of the first round. If you've worked a magic loop, tighten it up. Then follow our instructions below to practise working in a spiral.

WORKING IN SPIRALS

Follow these steps to work stitches in a spiral.



1 After working the last stitch of the first round, don't join it to the first stitch with a slip stitch, like you usually do when working in the round. Instead, work the next double crochet stitch into the first stitch you made.



2 To do this, insert the hook under the top two loops of the first stitch of the first round. Yrh, pull yarn through, yrh, pull yarn through two loops. That's your dc stitch made and you'll now be working in a spiral.



3 Continue to work more rounds of double crochet stitches in a spiral, according to your pattern instructions. On the last round, you need to finish off the spiral neatly.



4 To do this, after you've worked the last dc stitch of the last round, insert hook into the next stitch and work a slip stitch (yrh and pull through all loops). (There's no need to do this if you're just changing colour.)



If you're left-handed go to www.simplycrochetmag.com for tutorials

Abbreviations

across	to end of the row	inc	increase
alt	alternate/alternating	LH	left hand
approx	approximate(ly)	lp(s)	loop(s)
beg	beginning	meas	measures
bl	insert hook under back loop only	p or pc	picot
BPtr	Back Post treble: yrh, starting from the back, insert hook from back to front to back around post of st in row below, complete as treble st	patt(s)	pattern(s)
ch(s)	chain/chain stitch(es)	pm	place marker
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	prev	previous
ch-	refers to ch made previously eg ch-3	rem	remains or remaining
cl(s)	clusters	rep	repeat
cont	continue	RH	right hand
dc	double crochet	rnd(s)	round(s)
dc2tog	(insert hook in next st, yrh and draw a loop through) twice, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook	RS	right side
dec	decrease	sk	skip
dtr	double treble crochet	sp(s)	space(s)
dtr2tog	work 2dtr together	ss	slip stitch
fl	insert hook under front loop only	st(s)	stitch(es)
foll/folls	following/follows	tbl	through back loop
FPtr	Front Post treble: work in opposite way to BPtr	t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
htr	half treble	tog	together
htr2tog	work 2htr together	tr	treble crochet
in next	sts to be worked into the same stitch	tr2tog	(yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 2 times, yrh and draw through all loops on hook
		ttr	triple treble crochet
		WS	wrong side
		yoh	yarn over hook
		yrh	yarn round hook
		*	work instructions immediately foll *, then rep as directed
		[] or ()	work or repeat all instructions in the brackets as directed

Crochet hook conversions

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	–
13	2.25mm	B/1
12	2.5mm	–
–	2.75mm	C/2
11	3mm	–
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
–	3.75mm	F/5
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10½
2	7mm	–
0	8mm	L/11
00	9mm	M/13
000	10mm	N/15

Which hook do I use?

Choosing the right size hook for the yarn you're crocheting is important.

Hook size	UK yarn weight
2.5-3.5mm hook	4ply yarn
3.5-4.5mm hook	double knitting (DK)
5-6mm hook	aran yarn
7mm and bigger	chunky yarn

Crochet naturally

Work crochet stitches your own way.

Everyone has their own style when crocheting, so if you find any of our instructions hard to follow, just practise with a hook and some yarn to find a style you're comfortable with. Most people crochet with the hook in one hand and the working yarn in the other hand, but you don't have to. To get some ideas, look at how other crocheters work, or watch some videos on the internet. As long as you have some tension between the working yarn and your work, your crochet results should work out fine.

Crochet abbreviations conversions

Use this handy table to convert UK crochet terms to US crochet terms, or vice versa. Also see individual stitch explanations on previous pages.

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half treble	htr	half double	hdc
treble	tr	double	dc
double treble	dtr	treble	tr
triple treble	ttr	double treble	dtr



CUTE CREATURES TO CROCHET



Amigurumi

COLLECTION

THANKS FOR
VISITING ME AND
MY CROCHET
FRIENDS!





CUTE CREATURES TO CROCHET

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43
projects to
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Grab your crochet hook and make some new yarn friends with this cute collection of amigurumi patterns from *Simply Crochet* magazine. From dogs to dragons, rabbits to robots, there are dozens of lovable creatures to create. And we've got a full 'how to' guide to get you started!