

The Complete Guide to **CROCHET DOLLS AND ANIMALS**

Amigurumi Techniques Made Easy

Over
1500
Color
Photos



THE JAPAN AMIGURUMI ASSOCIATION

TUTTLE



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Amigurumi Techniques Made Easy



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Please note that with the exception of the toys featured in Chapter 7, all samples shown in this book are for illustration purposes only.





Why We Wrote This Book

Amigurumi is a unique subculture in the world of crochet. The possibilities for expressing yourself through three-dimensional objects are very wide—you can make anything from the small and cute to the largest and most complex figures. Added to that is the ease with which you can dive in with just yarn and a crochet hook. That is why amigurumi is enjoyed as a satisfyingly challenging yet easy-to-begin craft, and has its own special place in the world of crafts. Those who have some experience with crochet can focus on creativity. And because everyone is creative in their own way, this is a craft whose finished products can be very unique. Even imperfect results can lend special charm and style.

To those who are new to crochet, be patient with yourself as you learn. This book provides the techniques you need to create amigurumi—from such basics as how to hold a crochet hook, to how to crochet three-dimensional objects, how to express yourself through crocheted fabric, how to assemble amigurumi parts, and how to add facial expressions. Everything is explained in detail. This is a book for new and experienced crocheters alike to learn techniques for solid construction, beautiful finishing, and making original designs.

The Japan Amigurumi Association

AN
AMIGURUMI
GALLERY

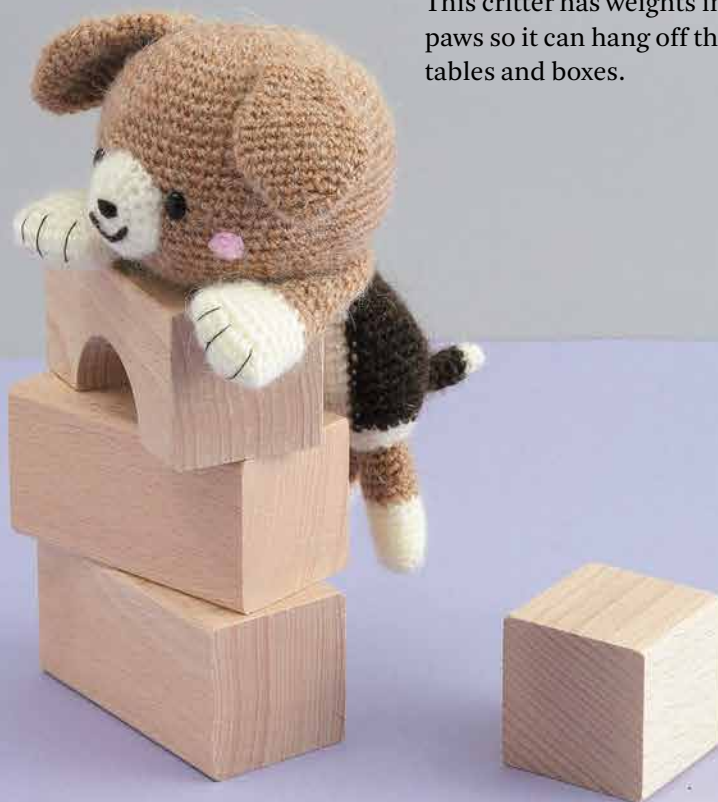
1



This toy reproduces the fluffy fur of a puppy. The snout and ears make use of crocheted fabric. The large eyes add even more youthful innocence.

※ Samples are for illustration purposes only.

This critter has weights in its head and paws so it can hang off the edges of tables and boxes.



Bears climbing Mt. Fuji! Since the bears are small, you could use them to decorate lots of little things, such as a child's backpack, but you can also enjoy placing them in a scene like this.





The size of the baby's head adds extra character.
The dog is crocheted similarly in soft hues.



Pretty girls who seem to have jumped out of the world of anime. All parts of these figures, including facial features, are crocheted.

Crocheted with particular attention to the wedding dress, tuxedo, and bouquet.



Dressing it up and forming it into a sitting shape make this elephant especially charming.



Chapter 1

The Basics of Making Amigurumi

Here we've summarized the basic information you need to know, such as the tools and materials used to make amigurumi, the names of each part, and how to read the crochet diagrams.

Amigurumi Tools

Basic Tools

First of all, let's gather the essential tools for making amigurumi.



Crochet hooks

The hooks typically used for amigurumi range in size from steel hook #4 (2.0mm) to J (6.0mm). The higher the letter in the alphabet, the thicker the hook (steel hooks excepted). Very large hooks are often listed according to their metric size (mm) only, not a letter. Choose a hook size appropriate for the yarn weight being used (see page 16 for more details).



Scissors

Mainly used to cut yarn and other materials. A pair with pointy tips is most useful.



Needles

Used for seaming and embroidery. Choose a needle appropriate for the yarn or thread you're using.



Ballpoint pins

Ballpoint pins are used when seaming parts together or for holding parts in place temporarily to determine placement. The tips are rounder than dressmaking pins, and the shafts are thicker so they'll hold in place even with thick fabric.



Bodkin

Used to pierce a hole the crocheted fabric or lift it when gluing pieces inside. It is also used to shape the amigurumi when inserting filling.



Tweezers

They are used when stuffing filling into elongated parts such as arms or into narrow openings.



Measuring tape

It is used to measure the size of an item and the gauge of the fabric.



Strong glue

It is used when attaching parts such as eyes and nose, and when attaching yarn or felt.



Steam iron

Apply steam to curled or crimped fabric with a steam iron for a neat result.

Useful Tools to Have

Depending on what you make, these tools may be necessary or just nice to have.



Pliers

Used when attaching metal parts such as O-rings and when bending wires.



Curved scissors

Since the tips of the blades are curved, you can cut without damaging the crocheted fabric.



Seam ripper

When you want to remove a seam, a seam ripper can do it more easily than scissors.



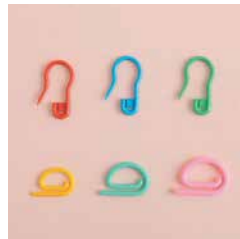
Yarn threader

Used when threading yarn through a tapestry needle. You can thread a needle without it, but this makes it very easy.



Marking pen

Used to make marks when cutting felt and attaching parts.



Stitch markers

When counting stitches, place a marker over any stitch you want to mark.



Calipers

This is a tool that can accurately measure the size of parts such as the eyes and nose.



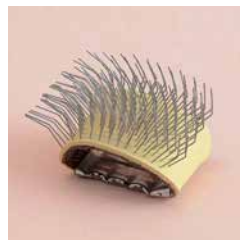
Safety eye sample set

A set of safety eyes in different sizes so you can try them out.



Needle felting needle

A needle used for needle felting with wool or acrylic roving.



Nap brush

You can fluff up the crocheted fabric by brushing it with a brush with metal bristles.



Pom-pom maker

A foolproof way to make pom-poms neatly.



Awl

The tip is thinner and sharper than the tip of a bodkin. It is mainly used for making holes.

Amigurumi Tools (cont'd)

Crochet Hook Sizes

There are many different sizes of crochet hook. Choose your hook size according to the yarn you want to use.

Japanese size (US size)	Crochet hook (actual size)	Suggested yarn weight *
2/0 (steel hook #4) • 2.0mm		Lace weight
3/0 (B) • 2.25mm		Fingering weight
4/0 (approx. C) • 2.5mm		Fingering or sport weight
5/0 (approx. D) • 3.0mm		DK or worsted weight
6/0 (E) • 3.5mm		
7/0 (G) • 4.0mm		
7.5/0 (none) • 4.5mm		Bulky weight
8/0 (H) • 5.0mm		
9/0 (I) • 5.5mm		
10/0 (J) • 6.0mm		Bulky or super bulky

※Yarn weights are suggestions only.

Note that Japan does not assign sizes to jumbo hooks; they are noted by metric size only.

Japanese size (US size)	Crochet hook (actual size)	Suggested yarn weight*
(none) · 7mm		
(L) · 8mm		
(N/P) · 10mm		Super bulky or jumbo weight
(none) · 12mm		
(P/Q) · 15mm		

※Yarn weights are suggestions only.

Amigurumi Materials

Yarn and Thread

Yarn is the foundation of amigurumi. Choose yarn according to the size of the amigurumi you want to make.



Yarn

Yarns are available in various fibers and weights (see page 21 for details). Select a hook size suitable for the weight and characteristics of the yarn you have chosen.



Crochet thread

Crochet thread is thinner than yarn. It is used when making small amigurumi or for embroidery.

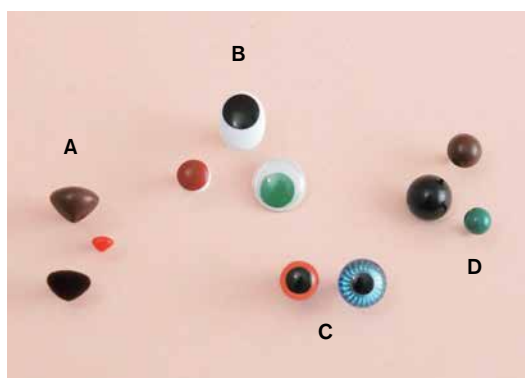


Embroidery thread

When embroidering the face, etc., embroidery thread allows you to create more clear, delicate expressions than yarn.

Eye and Nose Parts

Parts made for the eyes and nose. Attach using glue or thread.



- A. Nose parts
- B. Eye parts (novelty eyes)
- C. Eye parts (glass eyes)
- D. Eye parts (solid eyes)



Screw

Straight

Button

Differences between insertable eye types

These three types of eyes are inserted into the crocheted fabric. Button-type eye parts are sewn in with thread without using a washer.

Other Frequently Used Items

These materials are often used in amigurumi.



Fiber fill

Fiber fill stuffing for handicrafts. Even a small amigurumi figure uses more stuffing than it might seem to (see page 131 for stuffing method).



Pellets

Pellets can be packed into an amigurumi to add weight and make it sit more easily. They're available in various materials such as glass, stainless steel, and resin.



Wire

If you insert wire into the body or limbs, you can pose the amigurumi (see page 136 for how to insert it). Select the wire thickness (gauge) according to the size of the parts.



Felt

Used by sticking it on the crocheted fabric with glue or seaming it in place.



Acrylic roving

Acrylic fibers adhere faster than wool fibers. Use it by piercing it with a needle (see page 176 for instructions).



Beads

In addition to sewing beads onto finished items with thread, if you thread beads onto your yarn before you crochet, the beads will appear on back side of the crocheted fabric (see page 97 for bead crocheting method).



Buttons

In addition to being sewn on as an eyes, they can also be useful as decorations.



Pipe cleaners

Use them as decorations. They have a wire inside.



Pompoms

Used as an animal nose or as decoration. They come in a variety of colors and shapes.

Amigurumi Materials (cont'd)

Other Frequently Used Items (cont'd)



Cardboard

When you want to make the bottom firm, cut cardboard to the desired size (see page 134 for insertion instructions).

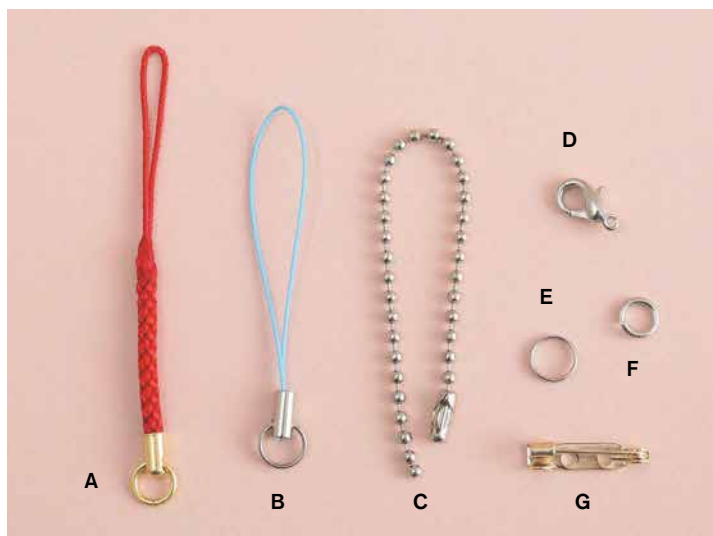


Plastic bell and whistle

By putting these noisemakers inside, you can make sound by shaking or squeezing the amigurumi (see page 133 for insertion instructions).

Items Used to Make Zakka

See below for a collection of items typically used when making amigurumi into zakka.



Straps, chains, etc.

Metal findings for making straps and accessories.

- A. Braided cord
- B. Plain cord
- C. Ball chain
- D. Lobster claw clasp
- E. Split ring
- F. O-ring
- G. Brooch pin



Zippers

For pouches and card cases. Sew a zipper to the crocheted fabric with thread (see page 181 for instructions).



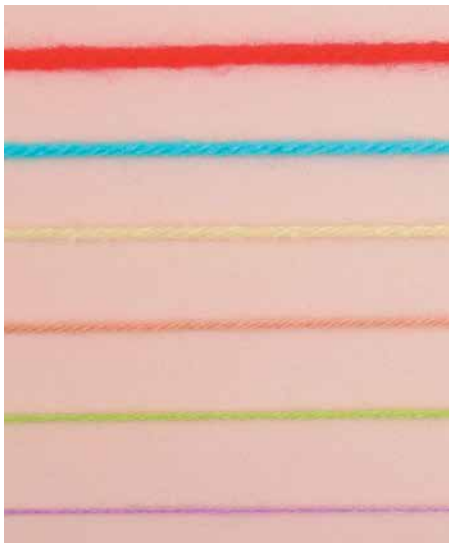
Purse frames

Used for pouches, bags, etc. There are two types: one is sewn in place and the other is glued (see page 178 for instructions).

Yarn Weights and Textures

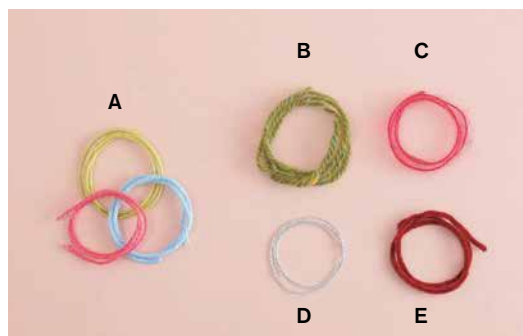
Yarn Weight

These are the yarn weights most frequently used for amigurumi. Choose a hook size appropriate for the desired yarn weight.

Actual size	Yarn weight	Suggested hook size	Metric size
	Bulky weight	7/0–8/0 (US G-H)	4–5mm
	Worsted weight	6/0 (US E)	3.5mm
	DK weight	5/0 (approx. US D)	3mm
	Sport weight	4/0 (approx. US C)	2.5mm
	Fingering weight	3/0 (approx. US B)	2.3mm
	Lace weight	2/0 (US steel hook #4)	2mm

Yarn Content and Texture

Yarns come in a variety of types as shown below. Each type of yarn results in a different finish of the crocheted fabric, so you may want to try different ones to determine those you like best. Yarn can be made of various materials such as cotton and linen.



- A. Smooth yarns:** These have good stitch definition. Suitable for beginners.
- B. Nubby yarns:** These have nubs (specks, knots, decorations, etc.) which become part of the crocheted fabric.
- C. Mohair yarns:** Soft, fluffy brushed yarns. Originally made of angora goat hair, but mohair made of acrylic fiber is now also available.

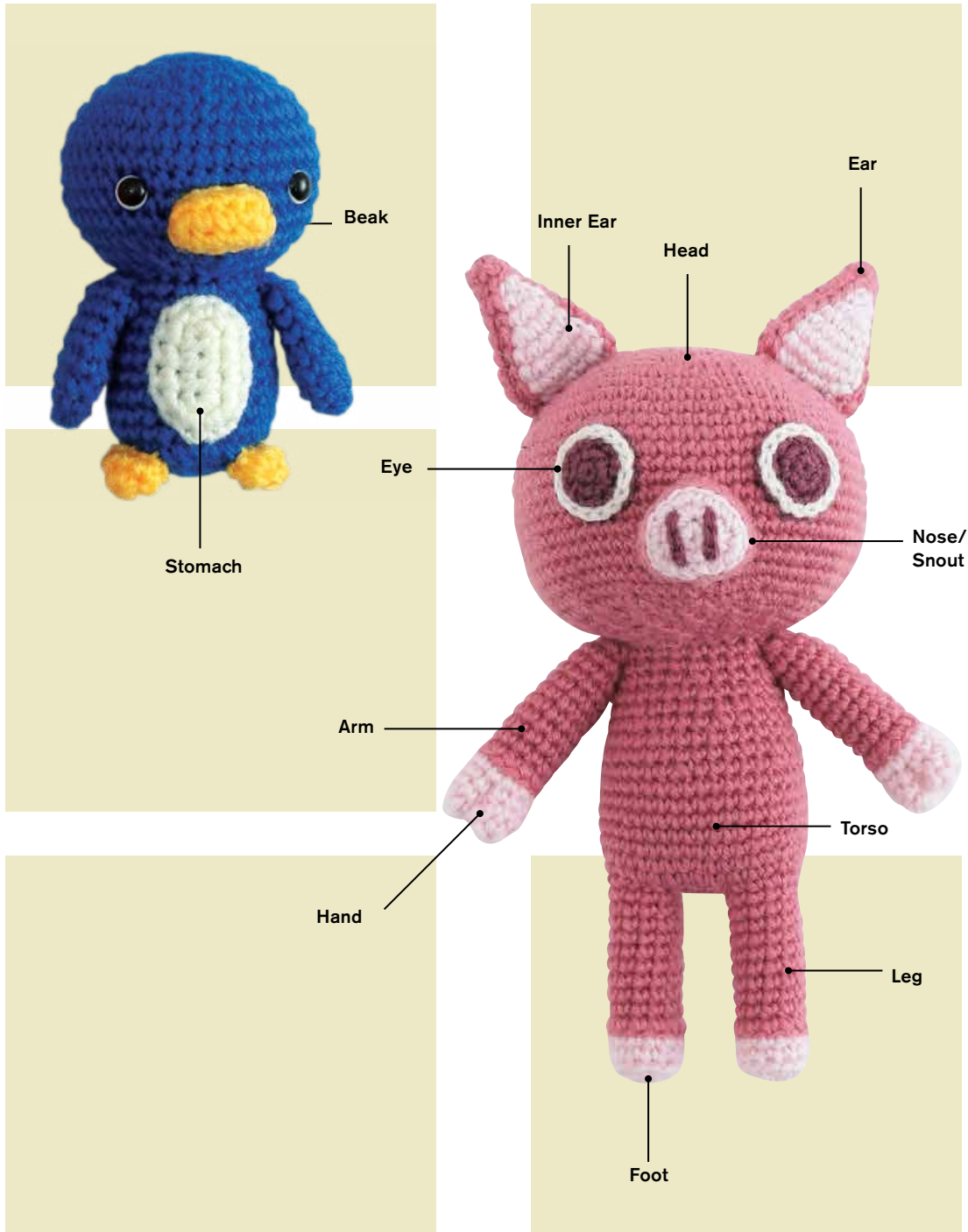


- D. Lamé yarns:** Metallic yarns you can use to make shiny crocheted fabric.
- E. Chenille yarns:** Lustrous yarns that are generally fuzzy and soft to the touch. Many chenille yarns are on the larger side.
- F. Novelty yarns:** Yarns made by combining threads of different types, colors, and thicknesses. There are various types such as those with nubs or fur.

Names Of Amigurumi Parts

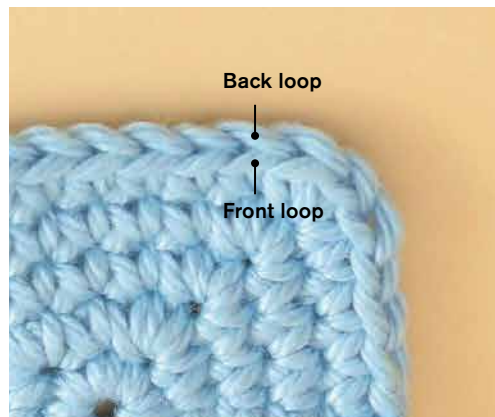
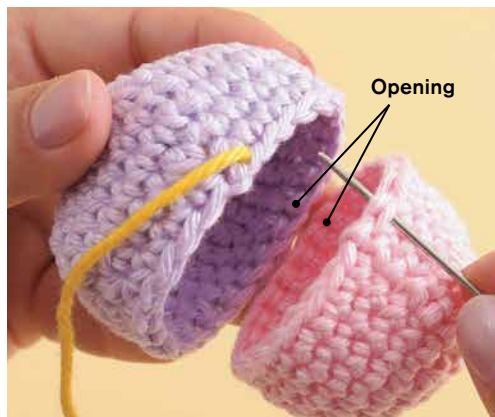
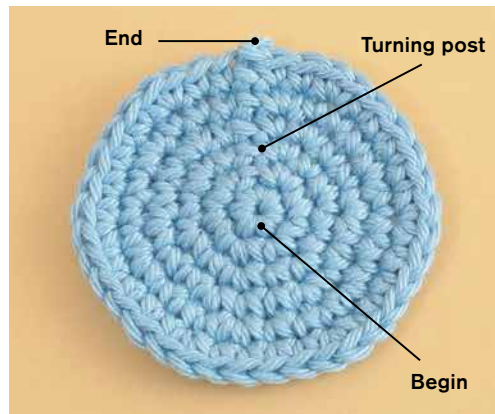
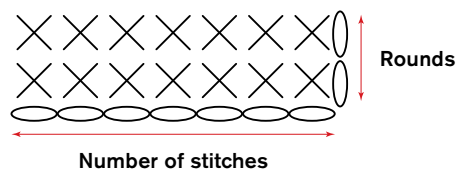
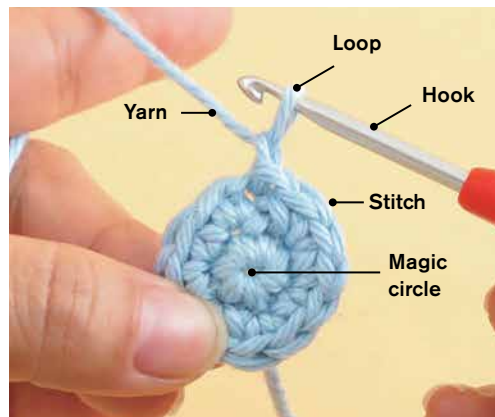
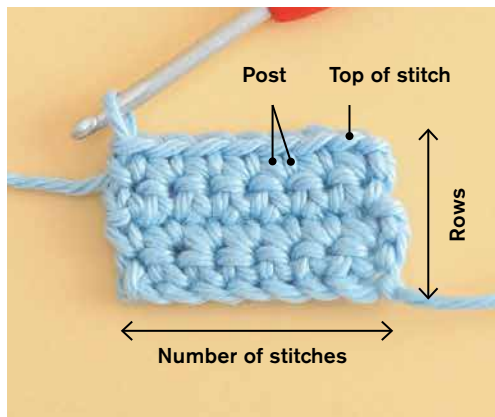
Amigurumi

Below are the names of various parts of amigurumi figures.

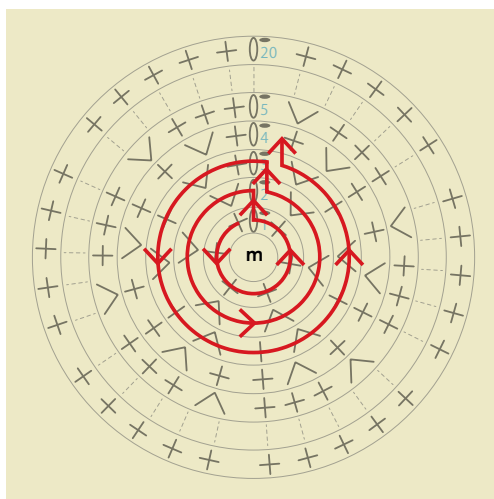


Crocheted Fabric

These terms refer to parts of the crocheted fabric or the method of making it.



How to Read a Crochet Diagram



Crochet diagram

The center of the circle is where you begin to crochet. Each round is marked off by a line. Within each round, read the symbols counterclockwise from the turning post.

Round	St count	St count
20	30	White
9	30	
8	30	
5	30 (inc 6 sts)	Dark green ※ sc tbl
4	24 (inc 6 sts)	
3	18 (inc 6 sts)	
2	12 (inc 6 sts)	
1	16	

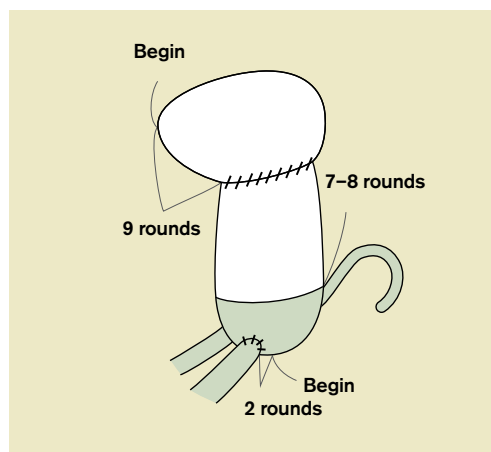
Table of round numbers and stitch counts

The table shows the number of stitches per round. Increases and decreases are written in parentheses. If there are color changes, the colors are shown on the right side.

Instructions

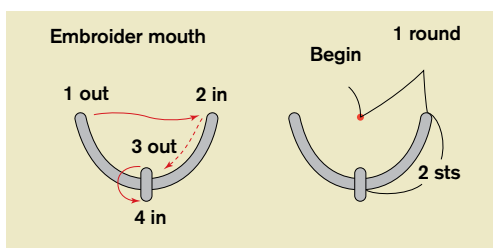
- 1 Crochet each part according to diagrams.
- 2 Insert stuffing into head.
- 3 Insert wire into arms and legs while stuffing them, then seam to body.
- 4 After putting the wires together, fill the body with stuffing.
- 5 Seam head to body.
- 6 Seam ears to head.
- 7 Seam the tail to the back of the torso.
- 8 Embroider nose and mouth.
- 9 Glue the eyes in place.

Explanation of crochet instructions



Finishing schematic

A finishing schematic explains where and how to assemble the parts.



Tip

Explains embroidery, points to pay particular attention to, etc.

Amigurumi Gauge



Tightly crocheted fabric

Standard crocheted fabric

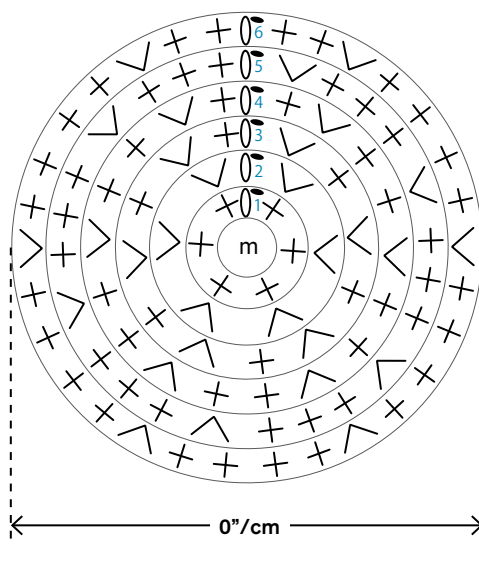
Loosely crocheted fabric

Even the same item can end up in completely different finished sizes depending on your gauge (that is, how tightly or loosely you crochet). Before you start crocheting, be sure to test your gauge.

If you achieve fewer stitches per inch (cm) than the recommended gauge, it means that you crochet loosely; if you get more stitches, it means that you crochet tightly. Either adjust the pattern to suit your gauge or choose a smaller/larger hook size to achieve the recommended gauge.

Please refer to the instructions or crochet diagrams for the amigurumi gauge.

Round	Stitch count
6	36 (inc 6 sts)
5	30 (inc 6 sts)
4	24 (inc 6 sts)
3	18 (inc 6 sts)
2	12 (inc 6 sts)
1	6



Skew

When crocheting in the round, the turning posts gradually shift to the right. This is a phenomenon called “skew” that occurs no matter what. Due to the nature of crochet, the top and post of the stitch are not aligned vertically but diagonally. There are individual differences in the degree of skew depending on how firmly you pull the yarn. Although there are individual differences, on average, the angle of inclination is about 10 degrees with respect to the vertical. If you experience skew greater than this, or if your turning posts skew to the left, your turning post method may be wrong, so check page 44 to adjust.



List of Crochet Symbols

US terminology is used throughout this book.

	Chain stitch (ch) → P.35		2 sc into same stitch → P.64
	Single crochet (sc) → P.40		3 sc into same stitch → P.64
	Half double crochet (hdc) → P.43		Same method as for sc into same st. Work 2 hdc into the same st on the previous row/round.
	Double crochet (dc) → P.46		3 hdc into same stitch (Same method as for sc into same st. Work 3 hdc into the same st on the previous row/round.)
	Treble crochet (tr) → P.48		2 dc into same stitch (Same method as for sc into same st. Work 2 dc into the same st on the previous row/round.)
	Double treble crochet (dtr) (Like dc, but wrap yarn around hook 3 times.)		3 dc into same stitch (Same method as for sc into same st. Work 3 dc into the same st on the previous row/round.)
	Bullion stitch (Wrap the yarn around the hook the specified number of times, insert the hook where indicated, YO and pull up a loop. YO and pull the yarn through all remaining loops on hook.)		3 dc into chain space Work 3 dc into chain space indicated.
	Slip stitch → P.50		sc2tog → P.65
	Crab stitch → P.52		sc3tog → P.66
	Single crochet through back loop only (working in the round) → P.54		hdc2tog → P.66
	Half double crochet through back loop only → P.54		hdc3tog → P.66
	Double crochet through back loop only → P.54		dc2tog → P.66
	Single crochet through back loop only (working in rows) It is worked the same way as sc tbl, but when crocheting back and forth in rows, lines appear alternately on the front and back to form a ridge pattern.		dc3tog → P.66
	Front post single crochet (fp sc) → P.56		3-hdc cluster stitch (Work 3 partial hdc [omitting last step] into same st in the previous row; YO and pull yarn through all loops on hook.)
	Front post half double crochet (fp hdc) → P.56		3-dc cluster stitch (Work 3 partial dc [omitting last step] into same st in the previous row; YO and pull yarn through all loops on hook.)
	Front post double crochet (fp dc) → P.56		Invisible bind-off → P.142
	Back post single crochet (bp sc) → P.57		
	Back post half double crochet (bp hdc) → P.57		
	Back post double crochet (bp dc) → P.57		
	Single crochet loop stitch → P.61		

Chapter 2

Basic Crochet Techniques

Here we've gathered the basic crochet methods used in making amigurumi, including how to hold the hook and yarn, and how to get started. Master these first for best results.

Before Starting to Crochet

Before you start crocheting, prepare the yarn and master how to hold the hook, how to hold the yarn and do a yarn over (YO). These form the basis of all crochet methods.

► Finding the end of the yarn



Pull the yarn out from the center of the skein to use it. For yarns that unravel easily, such as lace yarns and summer yarns, unwind yarn from the outside of the skein.

► How to hold the hook



Place your thumb on the grip and lightly hold the hook with your index and middle fingers.

► Basic method of holding the yarn



1 Holding the end of the yarn with your right hand, pull it between the little finger and ring finger of your left hand.



2 As it is, bring the yarn from the back to the front of your index finger, wrapping it over your index finger.



3 Hold about 2" (5 cm) from the end of the yarn with your thumb and middle finger. Raise your index finger so that the thread is taut.

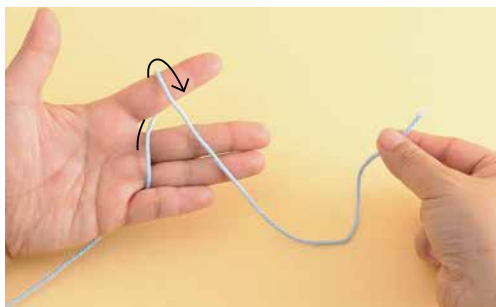
Left-handed people should reverse the instructions (see page 68).



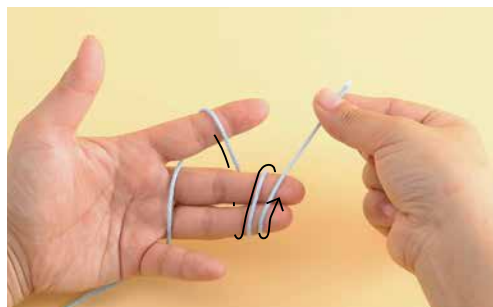


Magic Circle

This is the most commonly used method for starting amigurumi parts. The example shown here features single crochet (page 40).



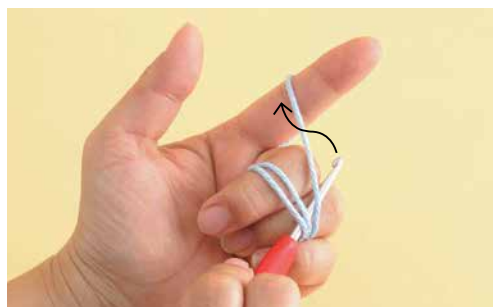
1 About 15¾" (40 cm) from the end of the yarn, wrap the yarn over your index finger as in steps 1–2 of "Basic method of holding the yarn" (page 28).



2 Place your ring finger and middle finger together and wrap the yarn around them twice.



3 Place the end of the yarn between your little finger and ring finger. Lightly grasp your middle finger, ring finger, and little finger.



4 Insert the hook into the section with two loops.



5 Grab the yarn lying on your index finger with the hook.



6 Pull the yarn through the double loop.

Magic Circle (cont'd)

► Round 1



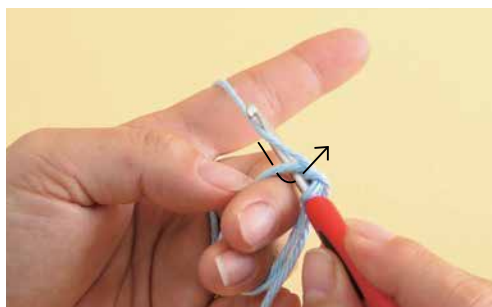
7 The “m” section of the crochet diagram is now complete.



8 Yarn over and pull up a loop (as shown by the arrow in step 7).



9 Ch1 turning post is now complete.



10 As in step 4, insert hook under the double loop and grab the yarn on your index finger with the hook.



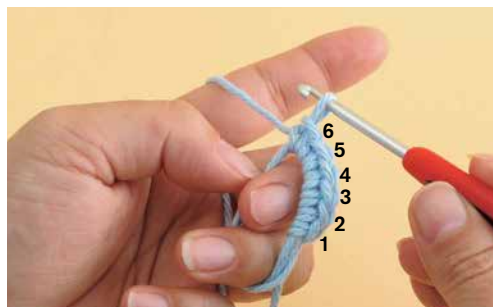
11 Pull the yarn through the double loop as shown. There are now 2 loops on the hook.



12 Yarn over again.



13 Pull the yarn through all loops on the hook.
1 sc completed.



14 Repeat for the required number of stitches
for round 1.

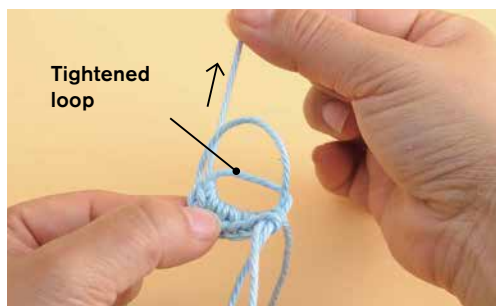
► Cinching the circle shut



15 Pull the loop on the hook to extend it.



16 Remove the hook (this is called putting
the yarn on hold). Hold the crocheted part in your
left hand so that the loop on hold is at the bottom
right.



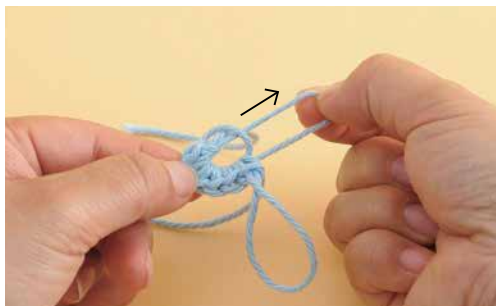
17 Try lightly tugging on the yarn tail to see
which of the double loops moves.



18 To confirm the one that has moved, tug it
on the yarn tail side of the ring.

※Do not pull on the loop on hold.

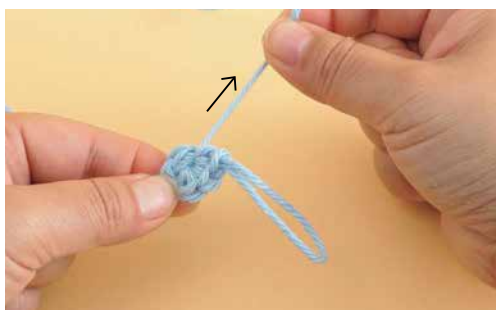
Magic Circle (cont'd)



19 Pull in a clockwise direction (the direction of the arrow).



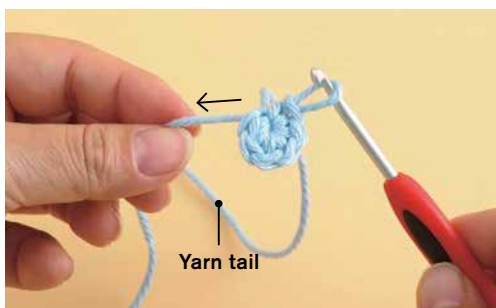
20 Pull until the center of the loop has become small.



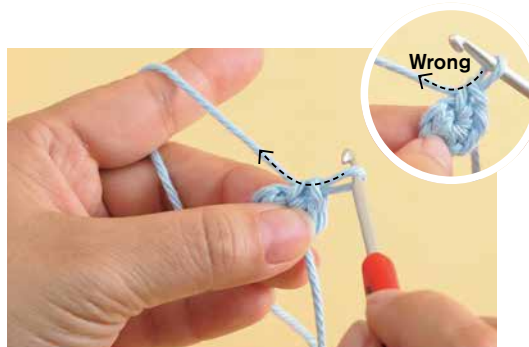
21 Pull on the yarn tail to make the other loop smaller as well. This completes the magic circle.



22 Place the loop you put on hold in step 15 back onto the hook.



23 Pull the working yarn (that is, the yarn coming out of the skein) to shorten the loop.



24 Make sure you have properly replaced the loop on the hook. The loop is correctly seated if the working yarn on the index finger forms the left leg of the loop on the hook.

※If the right leg of the loop is closer to you, the loop is seated incorrectly.

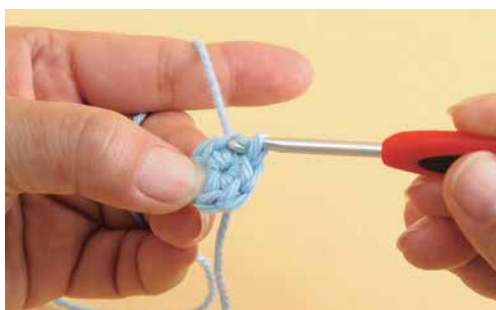
► Slip stitch to finish a round



25 Insert hook into top loops of first sc.



26 Yarn over (YO) the hook.



27 Slip the stitch by pulling the yarn through both the top loops from step 25 and the loop on the hook (see page 50 for slip stitch).



28 Round 1 is now complete.



29 From the second round onward, at the beginning of the round, ch1 for turning post (see page 44 for turning post).



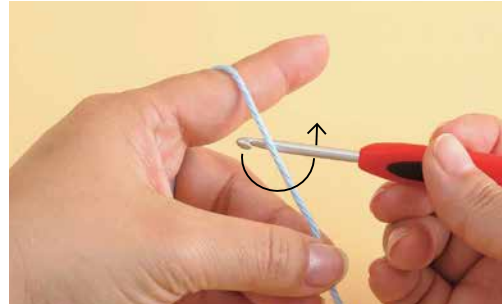
30 The photo shows the first stitch of the third round. If there is no turning post, it will be crocheted in a spiral (see page 44) rather than in rounds.

Foundation Chain

This is the method for starting to crochet with chain stitch.



1 Hold the yarn in your left hand and the hook in your right hand following the basic method of holding the yarn (page 28).



2 Place the hook on the other side of the yarn.



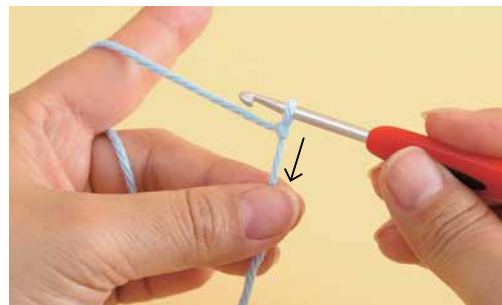
3 Rotate the hook from the bottom to the other side by pulling the yarn toward you to make a loop.



4 Hold the crossed part with your thumb and middle finger and YO.



5 Draw the yarn through the loop on the crochet hook.



6 Pull on the yarn tail to tighten the knot. Now you have the first stitch of your foundation chain. (Note that this stitch is not included in the total stitch count).



Chain Stitch (ch)



It is used when crocheting back and forth in rows, starting with an oval foundation chain, and when adding new stitches. It is also used to create turning posts for the next row or round when working in sc or other stitches (see page 44).



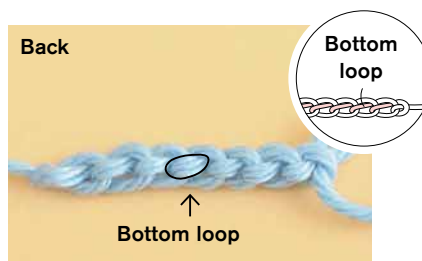
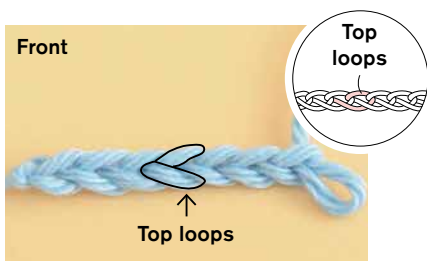
1 Hold the yarn tail firmly and YO.



2 Pull the yarn through the loop on the hook.
1 chain st completed. Repeat for the required number of stitches.

Top and bottom loops

A crochet chain has top and bottom loops. When crocheting into a foundation chain, the finished stitch will differ depending on whether you insert the hook into the top loops or the bottom loop, so if the instructions specify which to use, follow the instructions. It's important to remember the difference between the top and bottom loops.

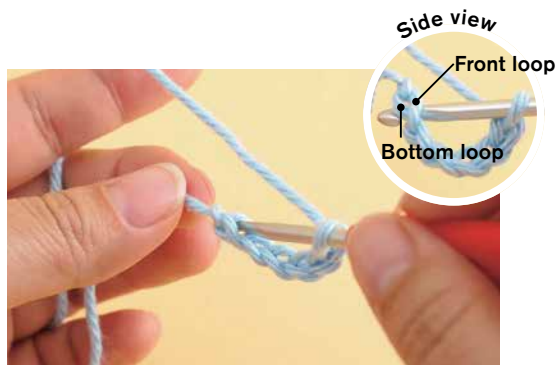


Circular Foundation Chain

This is a method by which you create a foundation chain and then make it into a loop. It is used when you want to make a hole at the center of the crocheted item.



1 Crochet the number of stitches that is stated at the center of the loop. Here we ch6.



2 This slip st (sl st) will be the first stitch. Insert the hook into the back loop only (so the front loop and bottom loop are separated from the back loop).



3 YO and pull the yarn through all loops on the hook.



4 Foundation chain joined into the round.

► Work round 1.



5 Ch1 for turning post.



6 Insert hook into hole at the center.



7 YO.



8 Pull up a loop.



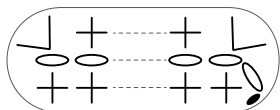
9 YO one more time.



10 Pull the yarn through all remaining loops on the hook. 1 sc completed.

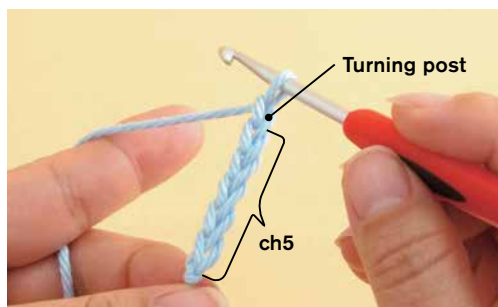


11 Repeat, crocheting as many stitches as shown in the crochet diagram for the first round. At the end of the round, work slip st to finish the round (see page 50).



Oval Foundation Chain

When you want to crochet an oval, work a foundation chain and then increase the number of stitches on both sides of the chain.



1 Work required number of ch sts (ch5 in this example), then ch1 for turning post.



2 Turn chain over. Insert hook into bottom loop of second st from hook. Work 1 sc (page 40).



3 Sc 1 into the same stitch. This is a type of increase (working 2 sts into the same st).



4 Sc into back loop of each of the next 3 sts.



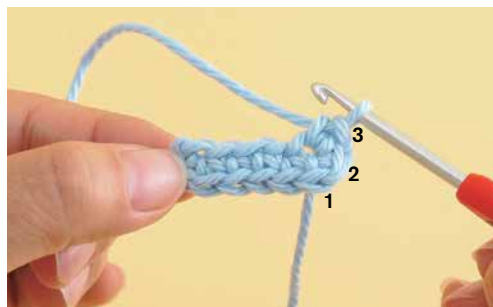
5 Sc 2 into the edge st, working into the bottom loop.



6 2 sc sts worked into the end of the foundation chain.



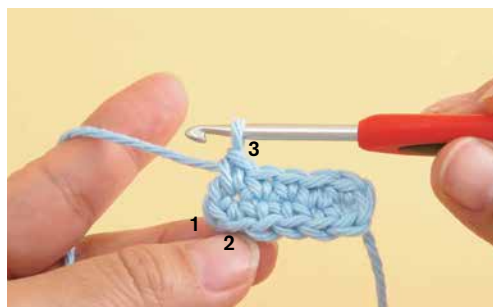
7 Turn the work 180 degrees. Insert hook into top loops of the same st as in step 6. sc 1 one more time.



8 The results of steps 5-7 are these 3 sts.



9 Sc 3 across (working in top loops).



10 Work 1 more sc. Now each end of the oval has 3 sts.



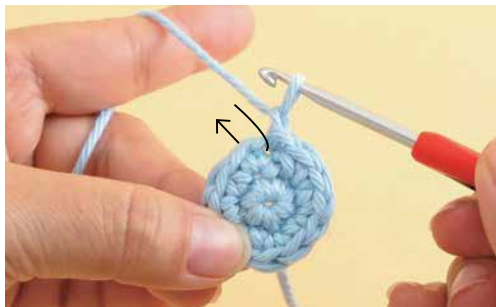
11 Insert hook through top loops of first sc; work slip st (page 50).



12 One round of oval completed.

Single Crochet (sc)

This is the most basic crochet method used for amigurumi.



1 Having already done a magic circle or circular foundation chain and the subsequent first round of sts, ch1 for turning post.



2 Insert hook into top loops of next st.



3 Yarn over (YO).



4 Pull the yarn over the hook (step 3) through the top loops. Make sure the two loops on the hook are the same height.



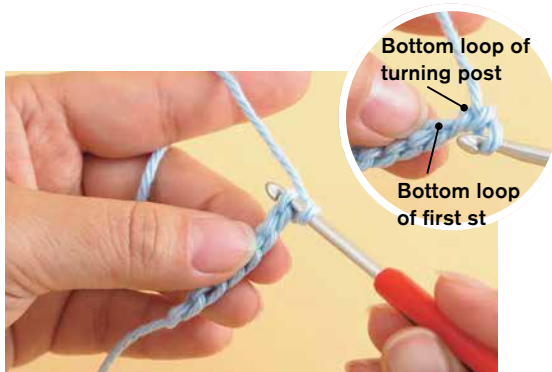
5 YO again and draw the yarn through all remaining loops on the hook.



6 1 sc st completed.

Single Crochet into Foundation Chain

Used when you're making a flat object, so a magic circle wouldn't be appropriate. Shown here with sc (page 40).



1 After working foundation chain, ch1 for turning post. Insert hook into bottom loop of first st.



2 YO.



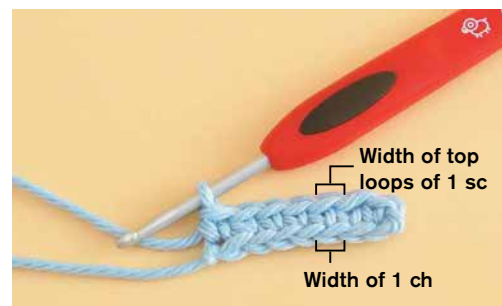
3 Pull up a loop.



4 YO again.



5 Pull the yarn through both loops on the hook. 1 sc now completed.



6 1 row completed. A properly crocheted fabric that is neither too tight nor too loose will have chain sts and sc sts of the same width.

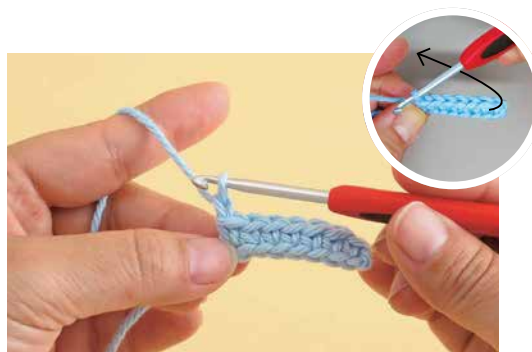


Working Flat +

When crocheting a flat object, when one row is finished, turn it over and crochet the next row, and so on. Here we will explain using sc (page 40).



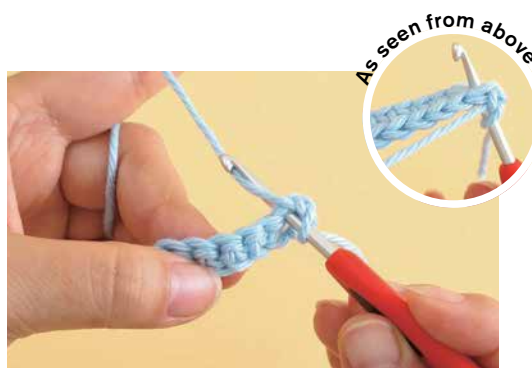
1 Row 1 completed.



2 ch1 for turning post. Turn the fabric 180 degrees counterclockwise as shown in the upper right photo.



3 Turned fabric with turning post on the right.



4 Work sc (page 40) into top loops.



5 Ready to crochet the last stitch of the second row.



6 Row 2 completed. Repeat for each additional row required.

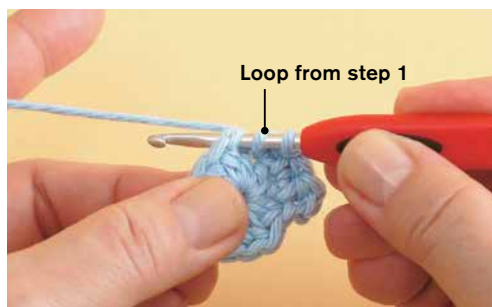


Half Double Crochet (hdc) T

This is a stitch one increment taller than a single crochet stitch. Ch2 for its turning post. The turning post counts as 1 hdc.



1 YO.



2 With the YO still on the hook, insert hook into top loops of next st.



3 YO.



4 Pull up the loop from step 3. There are now 3 loops on the hook.



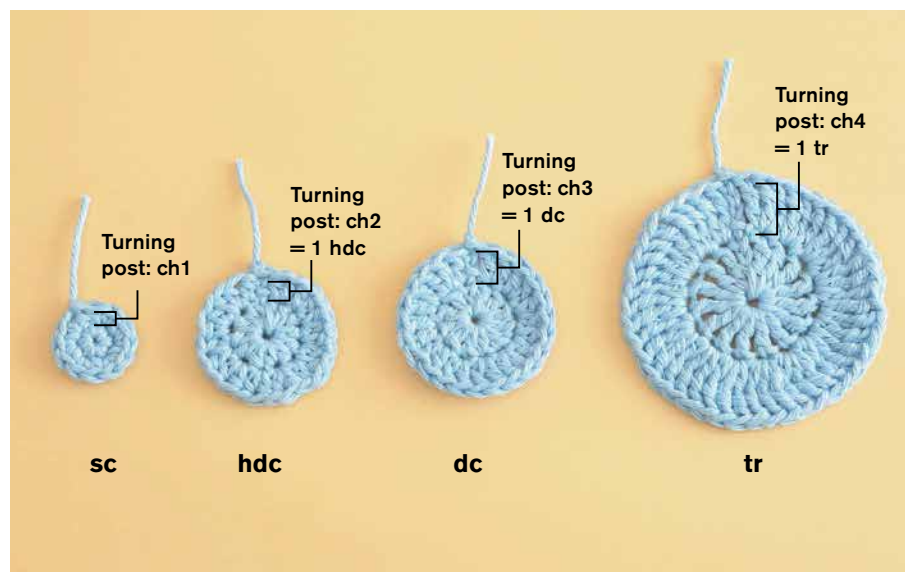
5 YO.



6 Pull the yarn through all remaining loops on the hook. 1 hdc completed.

The Basics of Turning Posts

Turning posts almost always appear in amigurumi. They are made of chain stitches at the beginning of a round.



The height of a crochet stitch depends on how it's crocheted. When you start crocheting after your magic circle or foundation chain, you need to “rise” to a height that matches the stitch height of the row/round using what we call a turning post. (Note that it's called a turning post even if you never need to turn the fabric.) This is because if you omit the turning post at the beginning of the row/round, the stitches at the beginning of the row/round won't match the height of the rest of the stitches and they will look like they have been crushed.

The number of stitches needed for a turning post changes according to the stitch you're using. Always count the turning post as one stitch except when working in sc.



Working in a Spiral (No Turning Posts)

If you are working in the round but there are no turning posts indicated in the crochet diagram, the stitches will form a spiral. It can be difficult to see the boundary between the rounds, so we recommend that you use a stitch marker to mark the first stitch of the round.

Hdc Turning Post

Here we will explain turning posts using hdc.



1 After finishing previous round with sl st, ch2 for turning post. The turning post counts as 1 hdc.



2 Now start working hdc sts. First start by doing YO.



3 Insert hook into top loops of next st and pull up a loop.



4 You should have 3 loops on the hook.



5 YO again and pull the yarn through all 3 loops on hook.



6 1 hdc completed. Photo shows turning post and 1 hdc.



Double Crochet (dc)

Instructions for working dc after completing a ch-3 turning post. The height of the stitches is increased by one increment compared to hdc.



1 Ch-3 turning post completed after previous round. This turning post counts as first dc st.



2 YO.



3 Insert hook into top loops of next st.



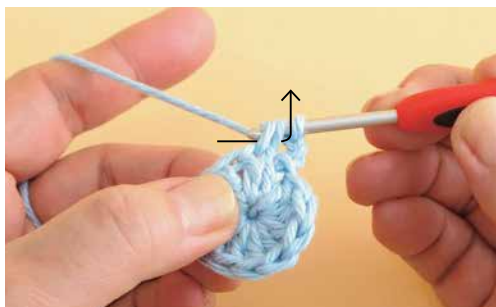
4 YO.



5 Pull up a loop. (3 loops now on hook).



6 YO again.



7 Pull the yarn through first two loops on hook.



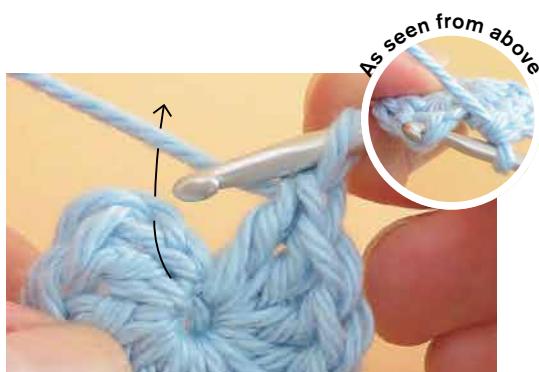
8 Now you should have 2 loops on hook.



9 YO again.



10 Pull the yarn through all remaining loops on hook. 1 dc completed.



11 To finish the round with sl st (page 50), insert hook into third ch of turning post.



12 Sl st; 1 round completed.



Treble Crochet (tr)

Instructions for working tr after completing a ch-4 turning post. The height of the stitches is increased by one increment compared to dc.



1 Ch-4 turning post completed after previous round. This turning post counts as first tr st.



2 YO twice.



3 Insert hook into top loops of next st.



4 YO.



5 Pull up a loop (4 loops now on hook).



6 YO again.



7 Pull the yarn through first two loops on hook.
(3 loops remaining on hook.)



8 YO again.



[TIP]
Since the st is long,
pulling the yarn through
can be difficult. Hold
the base of the st while
crocheting.

9 Pull the yarn through first two loops on hook.
(2 loops remaining on hook.)



10 YO again.



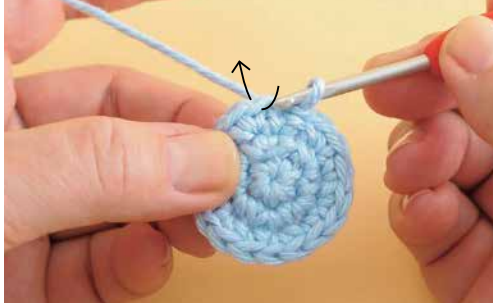
11 Pull the yarn through all remaining loops
on hook.



12 1 tr completed.

Slip Stitch (sl st)

Pull the yarn on the hook through the stitch all in one go. Slip stitch is frequently used, such as at the end of the round when crocheting in the round or at the end of a project when you bind off.



1 You will work the sl st that finishes the round into the first st of the round.



2 Insert hook through top loops.



3 YO.



4 Pull the yarn through all loops on hook.



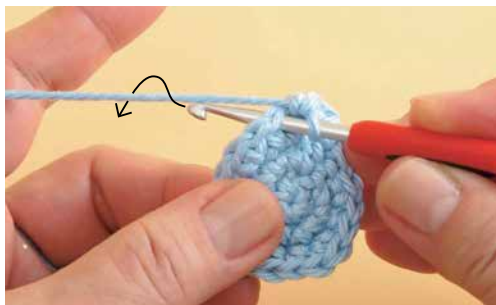
5 1 sl st completed.



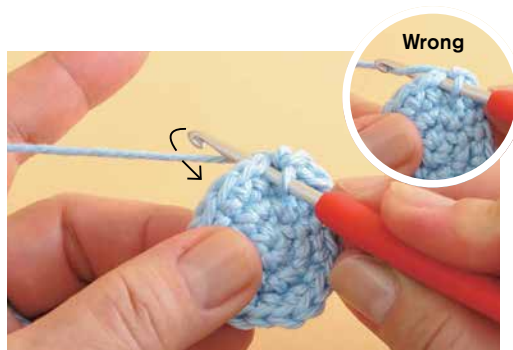


Crossed Single Crochet

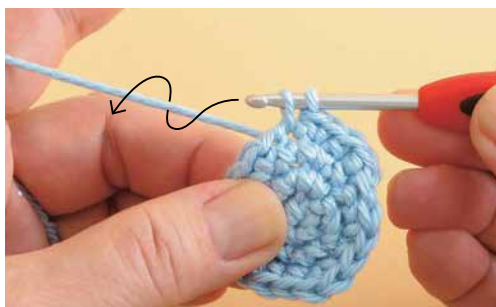
Single crochet with a twisted post. On the right side, the post looks crossed.



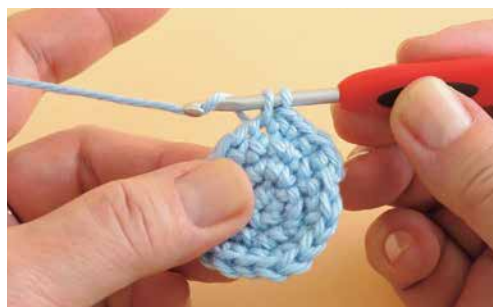
1 Insert hook into top loops of next st.



2 YO, but instead of doing it in the usual way, hook the yarn from the top so that it is sitting on the hook in the opposite direction for a normal sc (page 40). The “wrong” photo above shows how to YO for normal sc.



3 After pulling the yarn through the stitch, you should now have 2 loops on the hook.



4 YO again, this time using the standard YO method.



5 Pull the yarn through both loops on hook.



6 1 crossed sc completed.



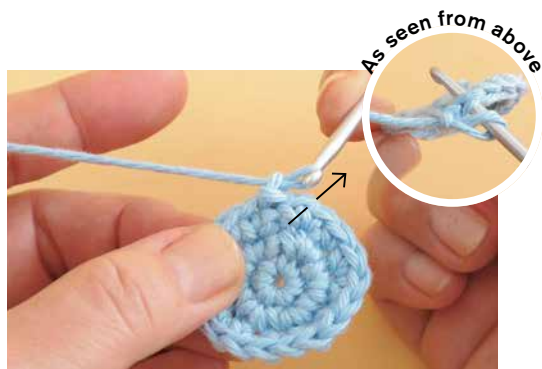
Crab Stitch



Normally we crochet from right to left, but for crab stitch, we work sc from left to right. It's used for finishing the edge. Also called reverse single crochet.



1 Ch1 for turning post.



2 Insert the hook into the top loops of the st to the right of the turning post.



3 YO.



4 Pull up a loop.



5 YO again.



6 Pull the yarn through all remaining loops on hook. Continue, working into the next st on the right.



Inverse Single Crochet

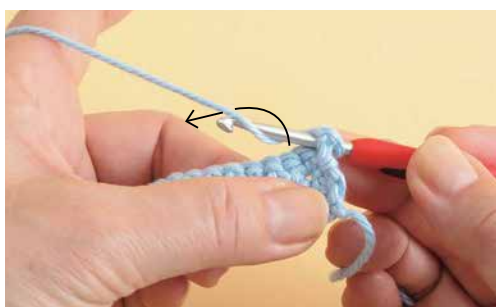
This stitch is used when working flat and you want the front side to look like the back side. Work a regular sc (page 40) but in mirror image. Insert the hook from back to front and do yarn overs (YO) in reverse.



1 Ch1 for turning post.



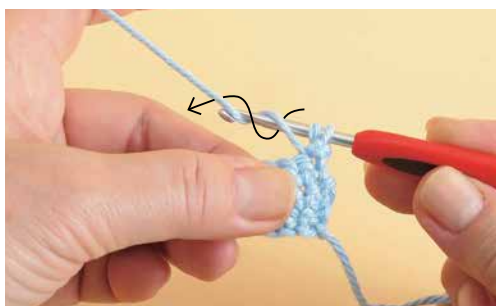
2 Work a sc with its front and back reversed: insert hook into top loops from back to front.



3 YO with yarn coming from above hook instead of below.



4 Pull up a loop on the back side.



5 Insert hook from under the yarn; YO.

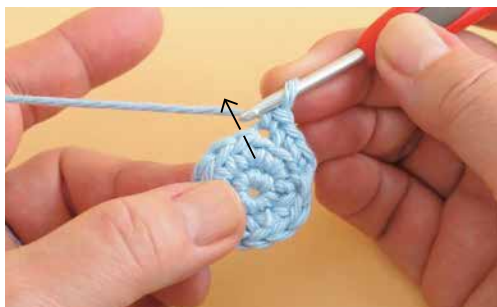


6 Pull the yarn through both loops on hook.



Working Through Back Loop Only

Working through only the back loop instead of both top loops, you can create a ridge pattern on the front side of the crocheted fabric.



1 Find the back loop (the top loop furthest from you).



2 Insert hook into back loop only.



3 Work sc (page 40): YO and pull up a loop.



4 YO again.



5 Pull the yarn through both loops on hook.



6 1 sc tbl completed.



Working Through Front Loop Only

Just like working through the back loop only, except that you work through the front loops only instead. The resulting crochet fabric will curve toward you.



1 Insert the hook into the front loop only of the next st.



2 Step 1 as seen from above. Do not insert into both top loops (as in "wrong" photo above).



3 Work 1 sc (page 40) here. YO.



4 Pull up a loop.



5 YO again.



6 Pull the yarn through all loops on hook. 1 sc tfl completed.



Front Post Stitch



This is a crochet stitch that creates a pattern that looks like vertical lines. Here, it is explained using hdc (page 43), but you can work any stitch as a front post (fp) st, including sc (page 40) and dc (page 46).



1 YO.



2 Insert hook behind post as shown by arrow in step 1 so that the post is in front of the hook.



3 YO.



4 Pull up a loop.



5 YO again.



6 Pull the yarn through all loops on hook. If you work a fp hdc every other stitch, it will look like the sample above.



Back Post Stitch



If you work around the posts of the previous row/round from the back, the sts of the previous row/round will be pulled up for a three-dimensional texture. Here, back post st is explained using hdc (page 43), but you can work any stitch as a back post (bp) st, including sc (page 40) and dc (page 46).



1 YO, then insert hook from back to front between posts as shown.



2 Take hook back out between next two posts so that the post is behind the hook.



3 YO.



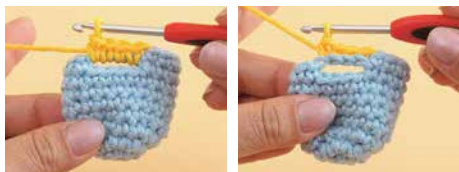
4 Pull up a loop.



5 YO again.



6 Pull the yarn through all loops on hook.



Creating a Hole

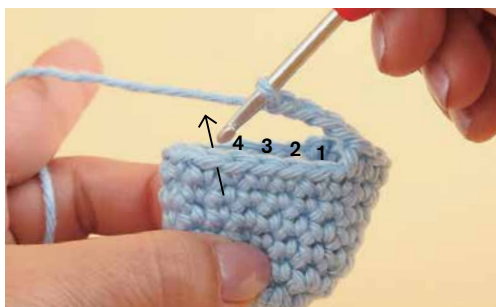
Used for buttonholes and such, this crochet method is used when you want to make a hole in the fabric. It is also sometimes used to make limbs.



1 Work up until where you want to create the hole. Here we are using sc (page 40).



2 Work a chain (page 35) as wide as the number of sts you want to add (4 ch sts shown here).



3 Skip 4 sts (or number necessary to match the ch sts you made); insert hook into 5th stitch.



4 Hook in 5th st.



5 Work 1 sc.



6 On the round after the hole, work your stitches around the chain (instead of into individual sts).



7 YO and work sc.



8 1 sc completed.

► **Working into the bottom loops of the chain**



9 4 sc worked into the hole created.



10 The round after hole (continued from step 5). Insert hook into bottom loop of next ch st.



11 YO and work sc.



12 4 sc worked into bottom loops of ch-4. This method keeps the chain loops visible.



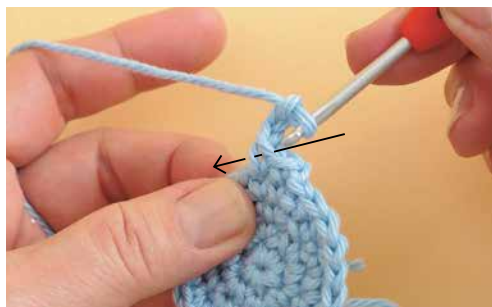
Picots



Used for decorative edgings, etc. We explain here using a ch-3 picot.



1 Ch3 (page 35).



2 Insert hook into front loop of the sc right before the chain.



3 Also insert hook into left front "leg" of the post.

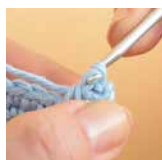


4 YO and pull the yarn through all loops on hook.



5 1 picot completed.

[TIP]



Hold the fabric with your left hand while pulling yarn through.

The composition and shape will change depending on the number of ch sts.





Loop Stitch



By catching the yarn with the index finger of the left hand, a loop forms on the back side of the crocheted fabric.



1 Insert the hook into the st as for regular sc (page 40).



2 Push the yarn down with the middle finger of your left hand. How far you push down determines the length of the loop. Hold the fabric while pushing the yarn down with your finger.



3 YO.



4 Pull up a loop.



5 YO again.



6 Pull the yarn through all remaining loops. A loop has been formed on the wrong side of the fabric.



Making Edging Neat

This is how to make tidy vertical lines at the edges of the crocheted fabric when working the edging.



1 Insert hook into st at edge of last row; YO.



2 Pull up a loop.

※ Note: if you have not yet bound off after working final st of last row, skip steps **1–2**.



3 Ch1 for turning post.



4 Work 1 sc (page 40) into the same st from step **3**.



5 For next st, insert hook into st one row below previous st.



6 Similarly, insert hook in gap between rows so as to wrap the first st on the edge, and pull up a loop.



Extension

This crochet method is used to make a part that looks like it pops out of the crocheted fabric. It can be used for tails, horns, hair, etc.



1 Crochet up until the place where you want to add the extension.



2 Work chain (page 35) for the length of desired extension.



3 Work a st into bottom loop of chain.



4 You can choose sts of desired height (demonstrated here with sc).



5 Continue working across chain, working a st into bottom loop of each ch st.



6 When you reach the end of the chain, resume working original piece.

Increasing Stitches



Also called an increase (inc). By crocheting multiple stitches into one stitch, you increase the number stitches compared to the previous round. Here we will explain using sc (page 40), but the method is the same for hdc (page 43) and dc (page 46).



1 Insert hook into same st where you worked last st.



2 Work sc as follows: YO.



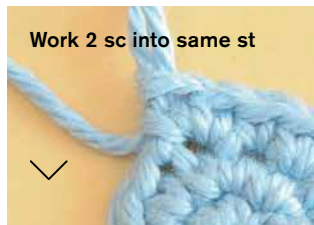
3 Pull up a loop.



4 YO again; pull yarn through all loops on hook. Here 1 sc has been increased to 2.

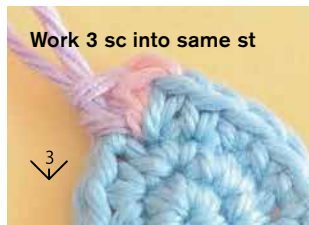
Difference in the number of stitches

Work 2 sc into same st



When 2 sc are worked into 1st st of the previous round.

Work 3 sc into same st



When 3 sc are worked into 1st st of the previous round (2nd st in pink, 3rd st in purple).

Decreasing Stitches



Also called a decrease (dec). This crochet method reduces 2 stitches to 1, 3 stitches to 1, and so on.



1 Insert hook as for sc. (Here we explain sc2tog, which decreases from 2 sc to 1 sc.)



2 YO.



3 Pull up a loop. 1 incomplete sc.



4 Insert hook into next st.

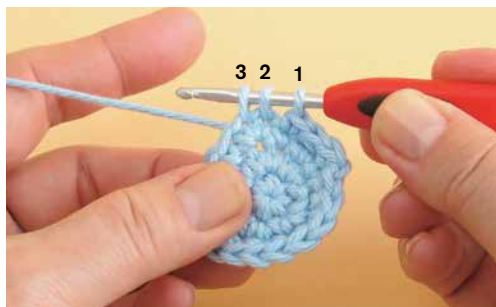


5 Hook shown in next st.



6 YO and pull up a loop.

Decreasing Stitches (cont'd)



7 You should now have 3 loops on the hook.



8 YO again.



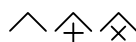
9 Pull the yarn through all loops on hook.



10 1 sc2tog completed.

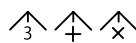
Decrease symbols

There are decrease symbols for sc, hdc, and dc.



sc2tog

See pages 65–66 for instructions.



sc3tog

Work 3 incomplete sc, then YO and pull yarn through all loops on hook.



hdc2tog

Work 2 incomplete hdc, then YO and pull yarn through all loops on hook.



hdc3tog

Work 3 incomplete hdc, then YO and pull yarn through all loops on hook.



dc2tog

Work 2 incomplete dc, then YO and pull yarn through all loops on hook.



dc3tog

Work 3 incomplete dc, then YO and pull yarn through all loops on hook.

Skipping Stitches (Decrease Method)

This is a method of decreasing stitches by skipping the previous stitch(es) without working them, such as crocheting every other stitch. It is used when the yarn is thick, when another decrease method would be too noticeable, and so on.



1 Work up until where you want the decreases to begin.



2 Skip the first st and insert hook into top loops of the second st.



3 YO.



4 Pull up a loop.



5 YO and pull the yarn through all loops on hook. 1 sc completed.



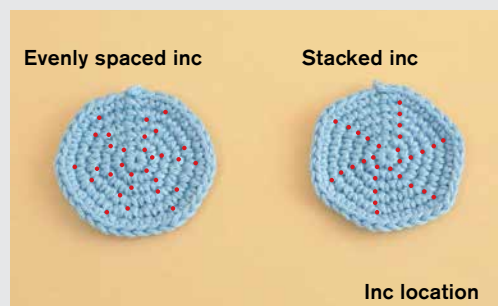
6 If you continue decreasing by skipping every other st, it will look like this.

Differences Between Increases and Decreases

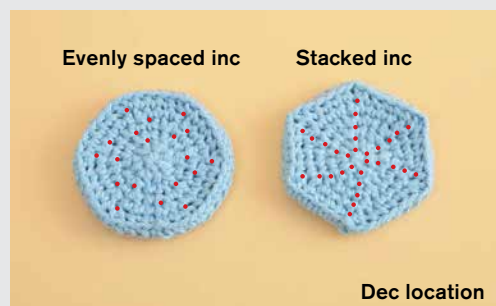
You can make a round crocheted fabric by increasing and decreasing the number of stitches. In both photos below, the sample on the left side features evenly spaced increases/decreases. The samples on the right feature stacked increases/decreases which are always worked at the same place on every round.

If you always increase or decrease the number of stitches in the same place, the resulting shape will be polygonal rather than truly round. Choose the placement of increases/decreases depending on the shape of the crocheted fabric you want to make.

Increases



Decreases



Left-handed Crochet

Technique photos, illustrations, and crochet diagrams are usually made for right-handed people. Left-handed crocheters typically hold the yarn in their right hand, hold the hook in their left hand, and crochet from left to right, so the techniques and diagrams must be reversed from that of a right-handed person. If it is difficult to reverse it in your head, try to make a reverse photocopy of the diagram.



AN
AMIGURUMI
GALLERY

—
2



This cute, chubby red demon is cleverly constructed from fingers to toes. Lots of ingenuity, from tiger pants to horns and even hair!

※ Samples are for illustration purposes only.



There are no rules for amigurumi. Kokeshi dolls and sake bottles are also fair game. You can give them their own unique designs.



Sleeping Ms. Carrot. She's bumpy, dirty, and her leaves are curled up. She looks like a carrot should.



This unique toy is full of character. By carefully crocheting with thin yarn, you can reproduce fine details.



This toy is crocheted with mohair yarn to create a warm, fluffy feel. The expression is enhanced using variegated yarns.



Everything about this toy stands out, from its silver lamé body, to its pose, to the expression on its face. The face is made using felt, pompoms, embroidery, and eye and nose parts.



You can do a lot with just black and white. This toy has a unique body composition and facial expression—and a great fashion sense!

Chapter 3

More Crochet Techniques

Here we've collected methods for making your amigurumi more individualized and fun, such as shaping the crocheted fabric and changing the yarn color.



Changing Color at the Start of a Row or Round

This is the method for changing the yarn color at the beginning of a new row or round. If the same color will be used again, such as when crocheting stripes, drop it without cutting the yarn.



1 We will change the color in the last st of the previous round. Stop after pulling up a loop for the sc.



2 Hold the new color in your left hand. Leave a yarn tail of about 4" (10 cm).



3 Hold the old yarn (blue) and the new yarn (pink) together at the back.



[TIP]
(WS)
If you don't keep hold of the blue yarn, the st will loosen and become difficult to crochet.



4 YO with the pink yarn.



5 Pull the pink yarn through all loops on hook.



6 The final loop of the round should be pink. If you won't use the old color (blue) again, cut it, leaving about 4" (10 cm) for weaving in the end.



Changing Color Mid-row or Mid-round

This is the method for changing the yarn color in the middle of a row or round. If you want to use the same color again soon, simply drop that strand without cutting it.



1 Change the yarn color in the middle of the st before you want the color change to begin.



2 Hold the new color in your left hand, leaving a yarn tail approximately 4" (10 cm) long.



3 Hold the old yarn (blue) and the new yarn (pink) together at the back.



[TIP]
(WS)
Hold the blue yarn firmly so the yarn on the hook does not come loose.



4 YO with the pink yarn.



5 Pull the yarn through both loops on hook.



6 Color change completed.



Intarsia

This is a method to create a design by inlaying color(s) in the middle of the row/round. The method is the same whether you want to change the color of one stitch at a time or ten.



1 Work up to the second st before the color change.



2 Insert hook into the st one st before you want the color to change; YO.



3 Pull up a loop (1 incomplete sc).



4 Hold the new yarn (pink) in your left hand at back of the crocheted fabric.



5 While holding both old yarn and new yarn at the back, YO and continue the sc.



6 Once the sc is completed, the color has changed. Do not cut the blue yarn.



7 Sc with the new color.



8 Continue, working as many sc as you need.



9 Pick up the non-working (blue) yarn with your left hand and change the color back to blue following steps **5** and **6**.

Managing the back of colorwork

For the intarsia colorwork on pages 76–77, when changing from blue to pink, the blue yarn should be dropped at the back, then picked up again when changing back to blue. If working in the round, the non-working yarn will cross sideways at the back as in A (these are called “floats”). This method works well if you change colors frequently. If the floats would be quite long, or if you want the back to be tidy, you can hide the working yarn inside your stitches as in B (this is called tapestry crochet).



(RS)



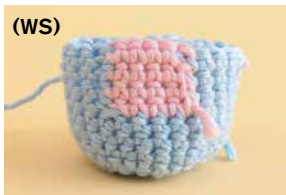
(WS)

A. Carrying the yarn

Please note that if the floats (that is, the yarn being carried) are too tight, the fabric will pucker. Likewise, if the floats are too loose, the stitches at the color boundaries will loosen.



(RS)



(WS)

B. Working over the yarn (tapestry crochet)

Depending on the type of yarn, you may be able to see the non-working yarn through the stitches.

Working a Partial Round

This is a method for crocheting only a part of a round, such as when creating limbs.



1 Here, we will crochet a leg from the torso. Crochet the number of sts needed for one leg.



2 Turn so that the hook is in the back.



3 Skip the other half of the torso sts. Sl st (page 50) into first st of leg section.



4 If you continue in this manner, you'll have one leg. Join new yarn (page 79) to create another leg.



Joining Yarn to Add New Stitches

This is when you attach a new strand of yarn to a piece where there is no working yarn and start crocheting.

► Join yarn



1 Insert hook where you want to begin. In this example, insert into the st right next to the leg just worked as a partial round (page 78).



2 YO with yarn in left hand.



3 Pull up a loop. Hold the yarn snug at the back so that the loop won't loosen.



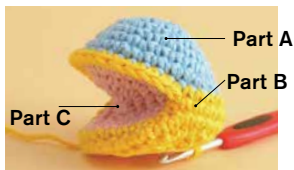
4 Ch1 for turning post (page 35).



5 Sc (page 40) into the same st—the st from step 1—where you just joined the yarn.



6 Continue crocheting according to pattern. (Here, the pink part is the new leg worked in the round.)



Creating a Mouth

Make an open mouth by combining one circle worked flat with another curved piece worked with increases (page 64).

Crochet techniques II / Creating a mouth

※Crochet diagram is on page 232.



1 Crochet part A (blue). On the round where you want to create the mouth opening, work sc (page 40) around one quarter of the round (after turning post).



2 Join part C (pink)—a flat circle—to part A by working sc (page 90) around half the round.



3 Work sc around remainder of the round for part A only.



4 One round completed.



5 Work turning post and resume crocheting. Work until you reach the seam with part C again.



6 Now work edging along part C only.



7 Work until the corner where parts A and C meet.



8 Insert hook into st immediately after join (seam).



9 Fold part C in half and continue working around part B.



10 If you continue in this manner while decreasing, the mouth will be completed.

We used three different colors to clearly explain each part.





Increasing and Decreasing with Clusters



You can make three-dimensional crocheted fabric by increasing (page 64) and decreasing (page 65) the number of stitches in the next round. This can be applied to crocheting ears, noses, etc. by adjusting the number and size of stitches.



1 Work sc (page 40) up until the location where you want to work the cluster.



2 Work 5 dc (page 46) into next st.



3 Continue working sc until just before the cluster worked in step 2 (in the photo, a cluster has been worked on the opposite side as well).



4 Decrease dc sts as follows: first, YO.



5 Insert hook into next st and YO.



6 Pull up a loop; 3 loops on hook.



7 YO again; pull the yarn through first two loops on hook. 1 partial dc completed.



8 Work 1 more partial dc; YO.



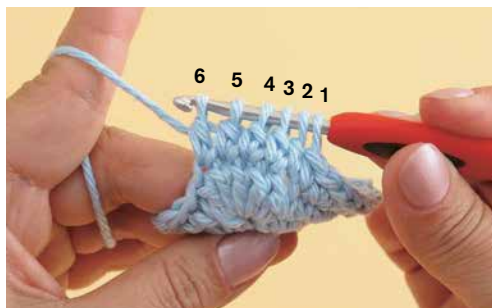
9 Insert hook and YO.



10 Pull up a loop, then YO again.



11 3 loops on hook (2 partial dc sts).



12 Continue in this manner, working a total of 5 partial dc sts (6 loops on hook).

Increasing and Decreasing with Clusters (cont'd)



13 YO.



14 Pull the yarn through all 6 loops on hook.



15 Continue working in sc. Here a cluster and dec was worked on both right and left sides, creating two ears.



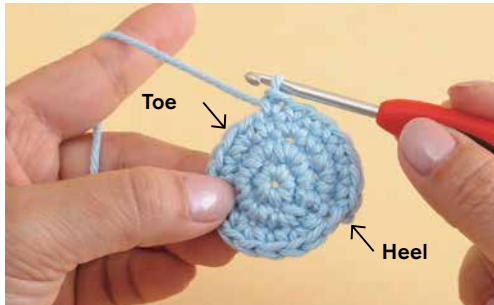
Increase (cluster) on first round.



Decrease on second round.

Creating a Foot by Decreasing

There are several ways to make feet, but here we will explain how to make them with decreases (page 65).



1 Continue increasing in sc (page 40). We will decrease starting on this round. The turning post will be at the back of the heel.



2 Decrease on toe side.



3 Left side shows toe section.



4 Decrease at toe section until foot is desired shape.



5 After decreasing, continue ankle in sc.



Creating a Foot with a Boot

Crochet an oval for the sole, work a partial round to make an ankle, and then continue crocheting to make a foot shape. You can make shoes and boots in the same way.



1 Start with oval foundation chain (page 38).



2 Work 1 round of sc tbl (page 54) and sl st to finish round.



3 Working decreases (page 65) only at toe, continue in sc.



4 After working up until instep, skip sts to form a partial round for ankle.



5 Continue working ankle in the round.



6 Join yarn to seam instep with whipstitch.



7 Whipstitch the edge, inserting needle into outermost loop of each st as shown.



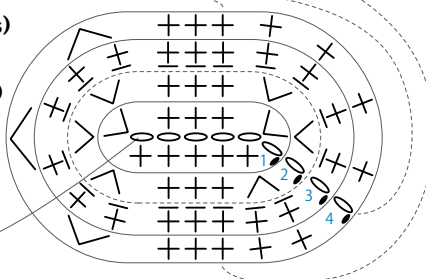
8 Pull the yarn to close up the hole.



9 Instep seam completed. Weave in ends on wrong side.

Round no.	Stitch count	
7	8	+++++07++++
6	8	+++++06++++
5	8 (dec 7 sts)	+++++05++++
4	15 (dec 3 sts)	
3	18	
2	18 (inc 6 sts)	
1	12	

ch5 to begin



This "boot" method yields a clearer foot shape than other methods.





Afterthought Foot

This is a method of making an ankle by pinching the crocheted fabric.

※ The crochet diagram is on page 232.



1 Crochet a tube starting at toe and working to ankle.



2 At ankle, ch to create a hole (page 58).



3 Work 3 more rounds, working into bottom loops of ch on 1st round after hole.



4 Join yarn to seam hole with whipstitch.



5 Insert needle into top loops of sts on both sides.



6 When last st is seamed, pull the yarn to close up the hole.



Crocheting Fingers

Make small fingers using picots (page 60). This is used when making small amigurumi fingers and so on.

※ The crochet diagram is on page 225.



1 After working magic circle (page 29), crochet 1 round. Begin fingers midway through round 2.



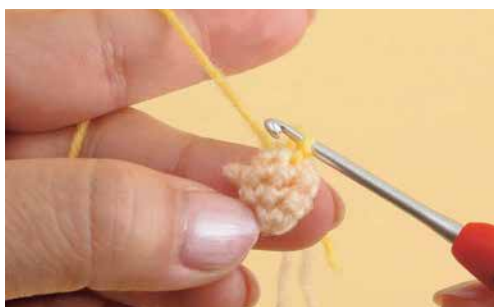
2 Work picot as follows: ch1 (page 35), then sl st (page 50) into first st.



3 Insert hook into top loops of base of picot worked in step 1; sl st. 1 finger completed.



4 Work remaining sc, then sl st to finish round.



5 Continue working in the round to create wrist.



Joining Pieces

This is a method for joining (seaming) two parts with a crochet hook while crocheting them instead of seaming them with a tapestry needle. It is used when you want to make the seam stand out, or when you want to work a decorative edging after the seam.

※ Yellow is used for the seam here to make it easy to understand. If you will be seaming with the same color yarn as the base piece, simply continue to seaming without cutting the yarn.



1 Pink piece will form lid of blue piece.



2 First, join yarn to blue piece (page 79), ch1 for turning post (page 34), and insert hook into first st.



3 Aligning the turning posts of the lid and the base, insert hook through base and lid with wrong sides together.



4 YO.



5 Pull up a loop.



6 YO again and pull yarn through all loops on hook; 1 sc (page 40) completed. Continue in this manner until the two pieces are seamed together.



Folded Seam

Used when making thin pieces.

※ We use a contrasting color for our seam here to make it easy to understand.



1 Pink piece will form lid of blue piece.



2 Insert needle into outer loops of sts as shown.



3 Repeat until entire edge is seamed.

By picking up only one loop from each st, the seamed area will be thin.





Fringe

This is a method of attaching a bundle of threads to the end of the crocheted fabric. It is used when making hair, tails, etc.



1 Insert hook into st where you want to add fringe from back to front.



2 Fold a cut piece of yarn in half; place loop on hook.



3 Pull yarn through st.



4 Remove hook; insert thumb and index finger into loop.



5 Grab the two yarn tails; pull through loop.



6 Pull on yarn tails to make fringe snug.



7 Repeat for as many fringes as you need.

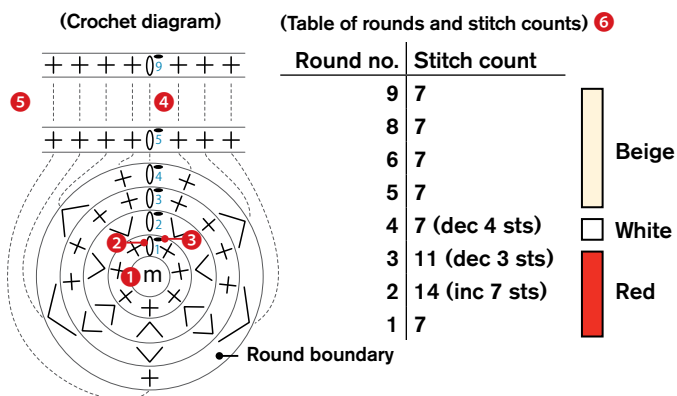


8 After you have attached as much fringe as you need, trim ends to correct length.

How to write a crochet diagram

Amigurumi is basically worked in a round shape, so most crochet diagrams for amigurumi show concentric rings. You should write a diagram from the center outward.

- 1 The “m” at the center represents a magic circle. To make sure that it’s not confused for a foundation chain joined into the round, be sure to include “m” here.
- 2 On the first round, within the boundary lines for the first round, first include the ch st(s) needed for the turning post; then insert the number of stitches to be crocheted in the first round using the appropriate crochet symbols. Write them counterclockwise and spread them out evenly. From the second round onward, place the symbols so that you can see into which stitch in the lower row you should work.
- 3 The small horizontal black circle to the right of the turning post is the symbol for a slip st. When your design requires turning posts, always include a slip st to finish the round.
- 4 If there are two or more rounds without increases or decreases, you can omit them from the diagram using dotted lines to show that they should be worked even. In that case, label the round numbers clearly.
- 5 When it comes to large items, it may be difficult to see them in circular crochet diagram, so sometimes they are depicted in this expanded manner.
- 6 In this table, write the number of stitches in each round, including any increases/decreases in the number of stitches from the previous round in parentheses. In addition, include any special instructions for stitches. Also note any color changes here. A crochet diagram is a blueprint for your amigurumi—try to write it so that anyone can envision it just by looking at it.





Ruffle Edging Made with Picots

It is used as a decorative edging when finishing the crocheted fabric.



1 Here, we will make a ruffle with a 3-st picot. First sc 2 (page 40).



2 Work ch sts (page 35). (Here you see ch2.)



[TIP]
Pay attention to where you insert the hook.

3 Insert hook between the heads of the base, including the front loop and left loop of post, as shown by arrow.



4 YO and pull up a loop (page 50).



5 Picot (page 60) completed. Continue in the same manner, working 2 sc between each picot.



6 Finish with invisible bind-off (page 142).



Making a Crisp Edge

This is a crochet method for when you want to make a crisp edge on the crocheted fabric. Here we will explain using a cylinder with a round bottom.

※To make it easy to understand, we use contrasting colors.



1 After crocheting the bottom, work sc tbl (page 54).



2 Continue working this round in sc tbl.



3 You can see the crisp edge.



4 You now have a clear division between the bottom and sides.





Making a Cupped Shape

This is a crochet method when you want to make a cupped section in your crocheted fabric. Crochet the cupped part first. In contrast to a crisp edge (page 95), it makes a gently curved edge.

※ To make it easier to understand, the cupped section is worked in a different color.



1 Crochet the bottom of the cup. The right side will be the inside of the cup's bottom.



2 Work in front loops only (page 55). By doing this, the sides will curve inward and stand up.



3 Cupped section completed.



4 Work flat section as follows: on first round, work sc tbl (page 54) so that it folds outward, increasing as you go.



5 From round 2 onward, work sc in the round, increasing as you go.



6 Side view of cupped part.

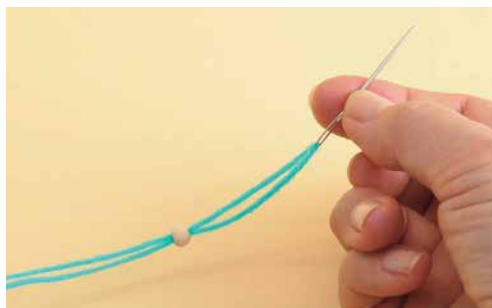


Inserting Beads

This is a crochet method in which beads are worked into the crocheted fabric. You can use any type of beads that can be threaded onto your yarn with a needle.



1 Prepare a needle that fits through the holes in the beads. Thread the yarn through the needle.



2 Thread a bead.



3 Thread required number of beads onto the yarn.



4 Crochet up until you want to insert first bead. Slide a bead close to the hook and YO (for sc in this example).

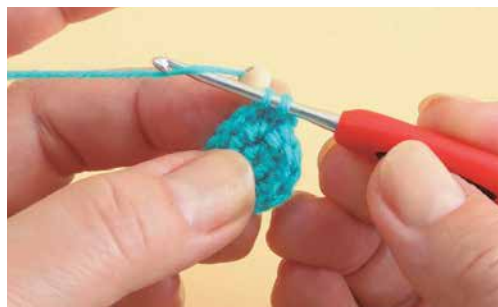


5 Pull up a loop.



6 Now bring the bead snug up against the fabric.

Inserting Beads (cont'd)



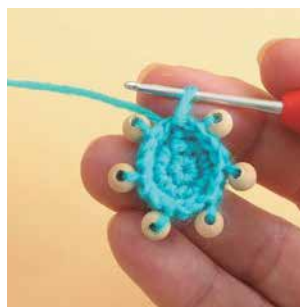
7 YO while holding bead with middle finger of left hand; pull yarn through both loops on hook.



8 1 sc with bead completed.



The bead lies on the wrong side of the fabric.



9 Repeat this around.



Beads evenly spaced around round 1.



10 Example of several rows with beads.

Delicate crochet with thin yarn and small beads

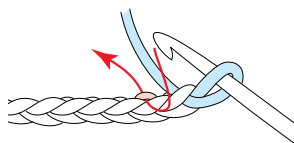
Very delicate crocheted fabric can be made by crocheting with small beads and fine yarns or crochet thread such as lace thread. By varying the color of the yarn/thread and the color, size, and shape of the beads, you can achieve a variety of finished looks. First, thread only the required number of beads onto the yarn/thread, but keep in mind that if you run out of beads in the middle of your item, you will have to cut the yarn/thread, weave in the tail, join a new beaded strand, and resume crocheting. If possible, be careful not to make a mistake with the number of beads you thread up before beginning.



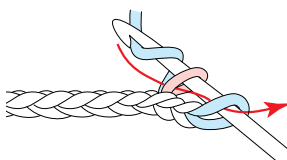
Crocheting Cords

We would like to introduce you to three types of cords featuring chain st and single crochet (sc). All of them are strong and sturdy, so you can also use them when making zakka.

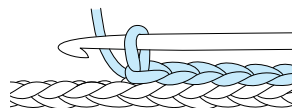
► Slip stitch cord



1 Crochet a chain as long as you require. Insert hook into bottom loop of second ch from hook as shown.

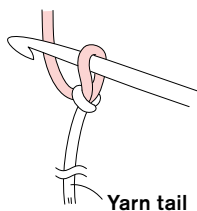


2 YO and pull up a loop. (1 sl st completed.)

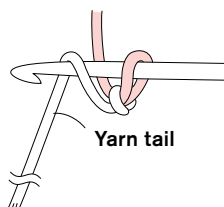


3 Repeat steps 1-2, working 1 sl st into bottom loop of each ch st.

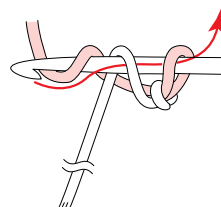
► Romanian point lace cord



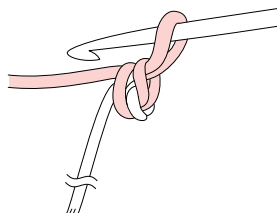
1 Leaving a yarn tail about 3 times the length of the cord you want to make, make a slip knot.



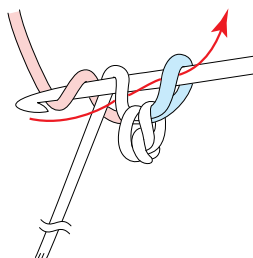
2 Place the yarn tail over the hook as shown in the illustration.



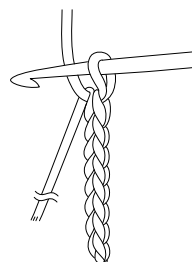
3 YO and pull the yarn through both loops on hook.



4 1 st completed



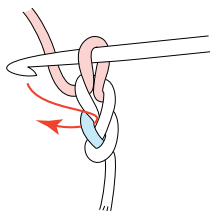
5 Repeat steps 2-3 until cord is desired length.



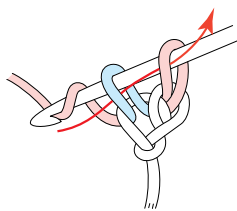
6 Completed Romanian point lace cord.

Crocheting Cords (cont'd)

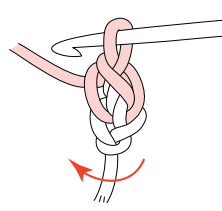
► Lobster cord



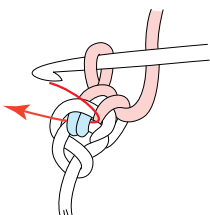
1 Make a slip knot and then ch1. Insert hook where shown by arrow. YO and pull up a loop.



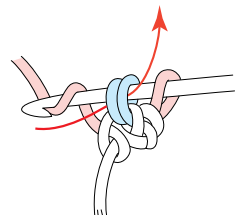
2 YO again and pull up a loop (1 sc completed).



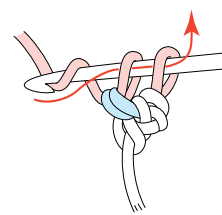
3 Rotate the cord in the direction of the arrow so the back is facing you.



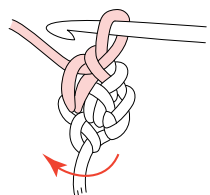
4 On back side, insert hook into 2 loops as shown by arrow.



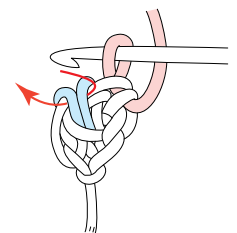
5 YO and pull up a loop as shown by arrow.



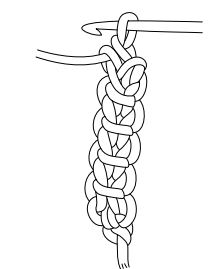
6 YO again and pull yarn through both loops on hook (1 sc completed).



7 Rotate the cord in the direction of the arrow so the back is facing you.



8 Insert hook into 2 loops shown and work 1 sc as in steps 5-6.



9 Repeat, turning work after each st, until cord is desired length.

Crochet Fabric Gallery

From basic to advanced

Swatch collection

From basic crochet stitches to more complex stitches combining several crochet methods, here are a total of 23 stitch pattern samples. When creating an original amigurumi, use this collection as a reference to find the crocheted fabric best suited to what you want to make.

AMJI

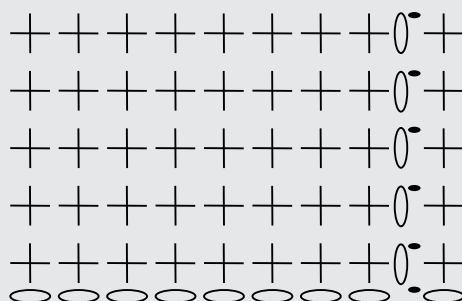
※ All samples crocheted with Hamanaka Amiami Cotton.

1 Single Crochet (sc)



The basic crochet stitch used most often when making amigurumi. Tight stitches make the crocheted fabric dense. Ch1 for sc turning post.

Instructions—page 40 (single crochet)



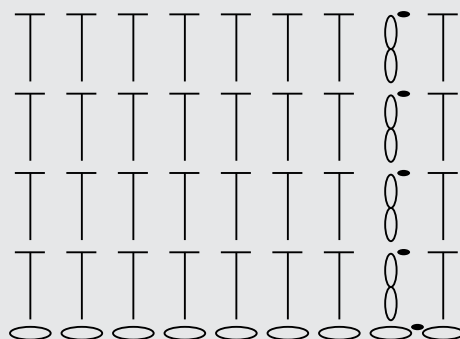
2

Half Double Crochet (hdc)



Similar to single crochet, but YO and pull the yarn through the loops one additional time. It allows the yarn's personality to shine through, and you can make a soft, fluffy crocheted fabric. Ch2 for hdc turning post.

Instructions—page 43 (half double crochet)



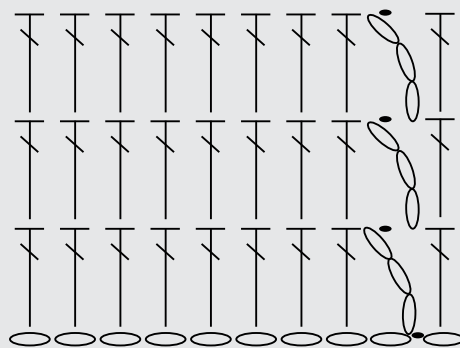
3

Double Crochet (dc)



This stitch is three times as tall as a single crochet stitch. Ch3 for dc turning post.

Instructions—page 46 (double crochet)



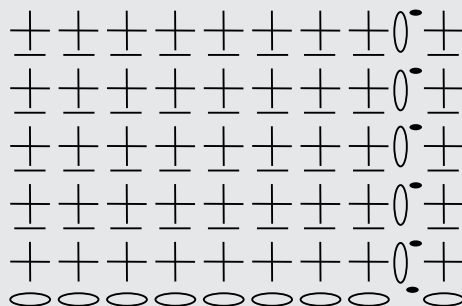
4

Single Crochet Through Back Loop Only (sc tbl)



By working single crochet through the back loops only, you create horizontal ridges. It can also be used when you want to create a crisp edge.

Instructions—page 54 (sc tbl)



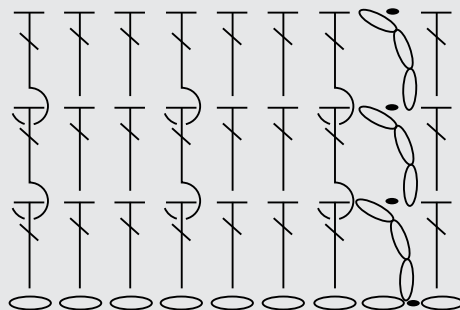
5

Front Post Double Crochet (fp dc)



Front post stitches are stitches where you insert the hook behind the post of the stitch on the previous row/round, YO, and pull up a loop. The stitches create vertical ridges. In this swatch, every third stitch is a front post dc.

Instructions—page 46 (dc), page 56 (front post)



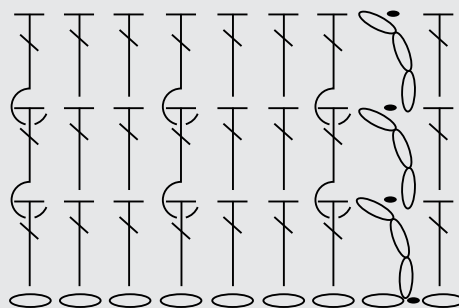
6

Back Post Double Crochet (bp dc)



Insert the hook around the post of the stitch in the previous row/round from the back, YO, and pull up a loop. On the right side, these stitches look like furrows. In this swatch, every third stitch is a back post dc.

Instructions—page 46 (dc), page 57 (back post)



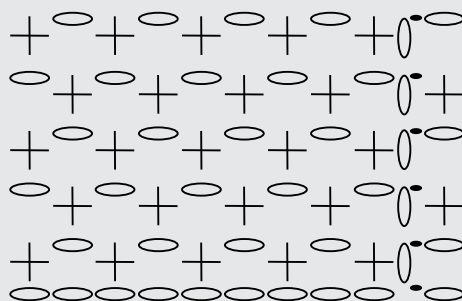
7

Granite Stitch



Alternate between ch st and sc on odd rows/rounds and between sc and ch st on even rows/rounds. From row/round 2 onward, always work sc into the chain space (ch-sp). The resulting fabric is softer than single crochet. Also known as moss stitch.

Instructions—page 34 (ch st), page 40 (sc)



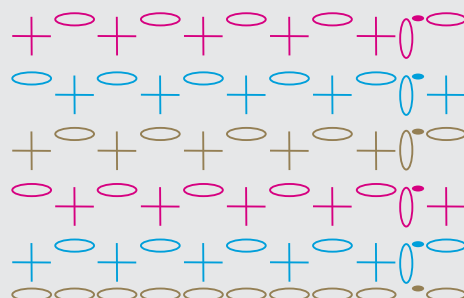
8

Granite Stitch (Striped)



The stitch pattern is the same as in swatch 7, but the color is changed for each row/round using a total of 3 colors. The combination of colors from the previous row/round makes for a beautiful crocheted fabric.

Instructions—page 34 (ch st), page 40 (sc)



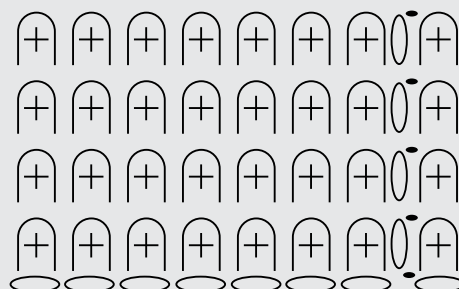
9

Loop Stitch (fp dc)



Work sc while looping the yarn around the middle finger of your left hand to control the length of the loop. The result is a loop on the back side of the crocheted fabric. This sample uses mohair yarn.

Instructions—page 61 (loop st)



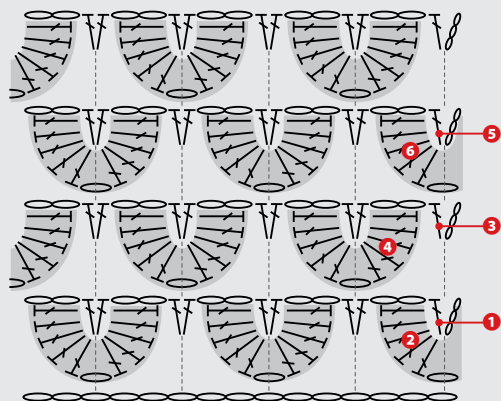
10

Crocodile Stitch



This is a stitch pattern that looks like scales or flower petals. On the first row, *work 2 dc into same st, ch2*, repeat from * to * across. On the second row, work *5 dc around post of dc st from previous row, ch1, 5dc around post of dc st from previous row*, repeat from * to * across.

Instructions—page 34 (ch st), page 46 (dc)



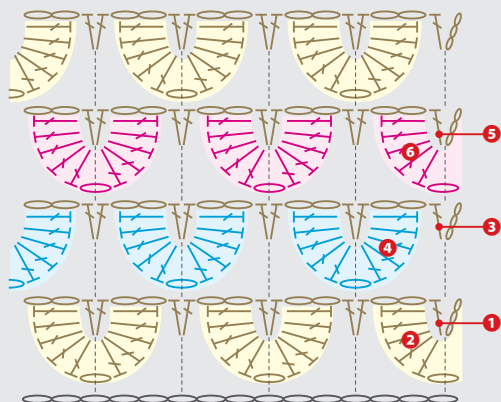
11

Crocodile Stitch (Striped)



Work crocodile stitch as in swatch 10, but change the yarn color every 2 rows to create a colorful, three-dimensional, fun crocheted fabric. It is also lovely to use a variegated or ombre yarn.

Instructions—page 34 (ch st), page 46 (dc)



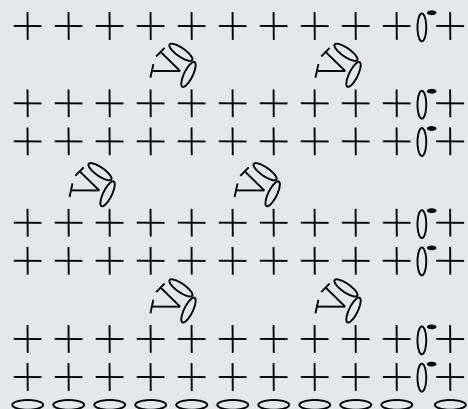
12

Bobbles



Between sc sts, ch2 and work 2 hdc into first ch. The hdc sections create a three-dimensional pattern.

Instructions—page 34 (ch st), page 40 (sc), page 43 (hdc)



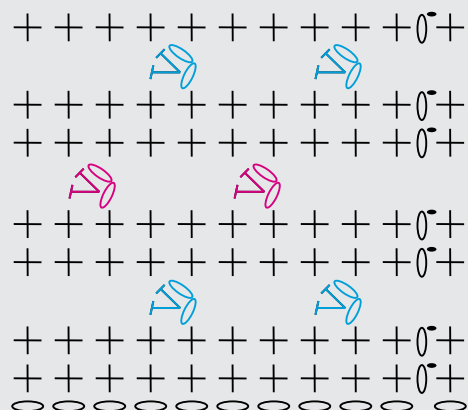
13

Bobbles (In color)



The same as the bobbles in swatch 12, but with the bobbles worked in different colors. The colored bobbles look like polka dots against the background.

Instructions—page 34 (ch st), page 40 (sc), page 43 (hdc)

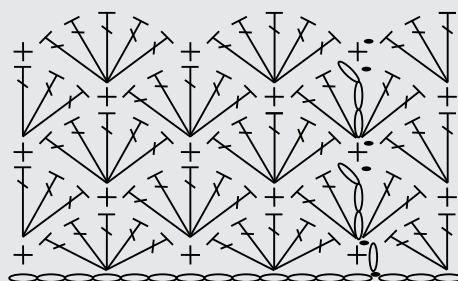


Shell Stitch



A stitch pattern that looks like a seashell. *Sc 1, skip 2 sts, work 5 dc into same st, skip 2 sts*, repeat from * to * across. From the second row onward, dc 5 into the sc st of the previous row.

Instructions—page 40 (sc), page 46 (dc)

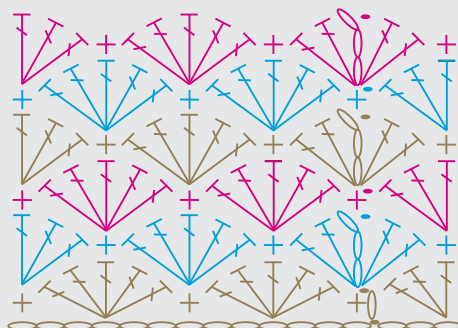


Three-color Shell Stitch



The same shell stitch as in swatch 15 but changing the color every row, using a total of 3 colors. The color changes look complicated, but they are easy because they are just a combination of sc and dc.

Instructions—page 40 (sc), page 46 (dc)



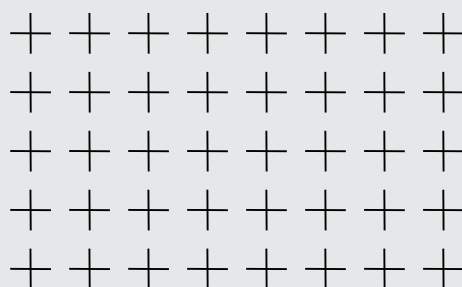
16

Brushed Single Crochet



This is sc worked in a mohair yarn and then brushed to make it fluffier. Even using just the same plain sc sts, by changing the yarn and fluffing it up with a brush, the result can change dramatically.

Instructions—page 40 (sc)



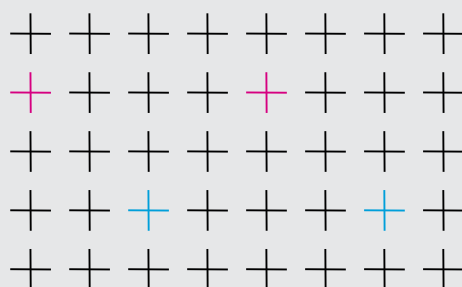
17

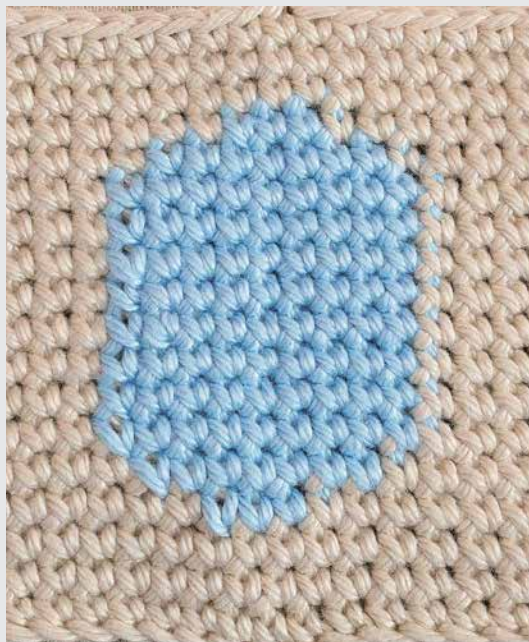
Tapestry Crochet



In this stitch pattern, work 3 sc in the main color and then 1 sc in a contrasting color. Here, the contrasting color alternates between light blue and pink every other row.

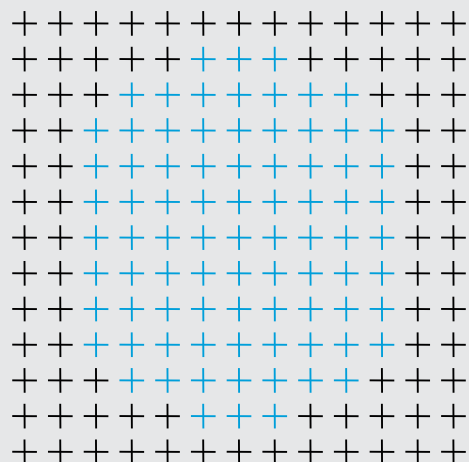
Instructions—page 40 (sc)





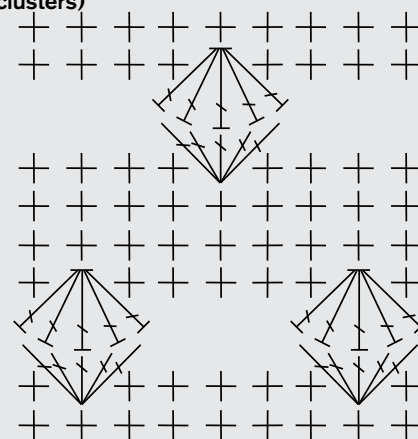
This is a method for inserting a colored design against a background of another color. You can insert your own design by planning out how many stitches you'll need.

Instructions—page 40 (sc)



You can create bobbles against a background of sc by working 5 dc into one sc to increase and then working dc5tog on the next row to decrease again. The front has bobbles while the fabric looks pitted from the back.

Instructions—page 40 (sc), page 46 (dc), page 82 (clusters)

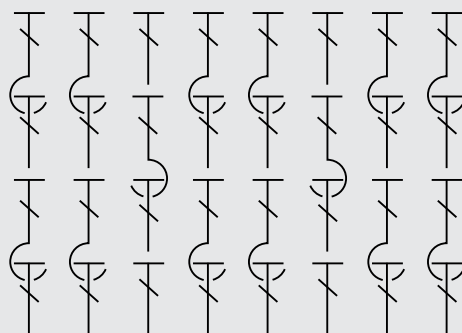


Waffle Stitch



This stitch pattern combines dc, front post dc, and back post dc to create a textured fabric with strong vertical elements.

Instructions—page 46 (dc), page 56 (fp dc), page 57 (bp dc)

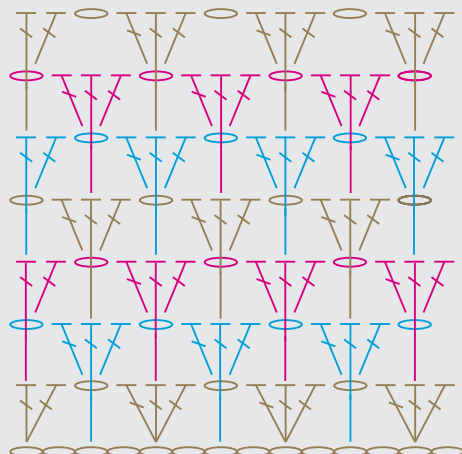


Staggered Three-color dc Spike Stitch



This stitch features a combination of 3 dc sts and 1 ch st. After the second row, work the second dc in each 3-dc cluster into the st two rows below. If you change the color every row, it will look quite intricate.

Instructions—page 34 (ch st), page 46 (dc)



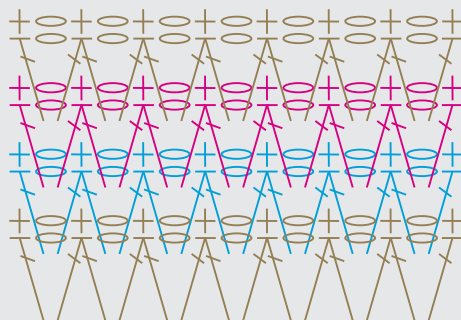
22

Three-color dc Spike Stitch



A combination of dc2tog decreases, ch sts, and sc sts. It's a multiple of 2 sts where you work dc2tog into the st two rows below. Change the color every two rows to create a complicated pattern.

Instructions—page 34 (ch st), page 40 (sc), page 46 (dc)



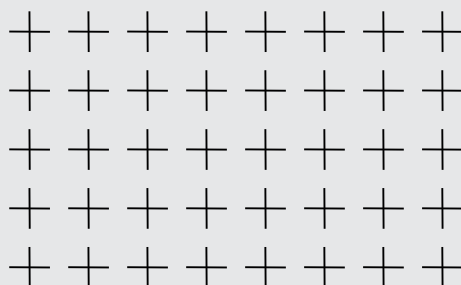
23

Inverse Single Crochet



This stitch is sc worked in the opposite direction so that the “back” of sc appears on the front side. Insert the hook from the back side and work the yarn over (YO) in reverse. The resulting fabric will be as dense as regular sc.

Instructions—page 53 (inverse sc)



Chapter 4

Assembling Your Models

In this section we've summarize techniques for assembling crocheted parts, either flat or in three dimensions.



Threading a Tapestry Needle

Use a tapestry needle to seam crocheted fabric together. Thread needles for embroidery in the same manner.



1 Place the yarn or thread on your finger with the needle over it so that you can see the thread through the eye of the needle.



2 Fold the end of the thread over the needle.



3 Hold yarn firmly around the needle between your thumb and index finger.



4 While holding the thread between your fingers, pull out the needle and press the folded part of the thread into the eye of the needle.



5 With the thread folded, pass it through the eye of the needle.



6 Pull the thread coming out of the eye of the needle. Leave a yarn tail of about 4" (10 cm).



Knot the Thread With Tapestry Needle

This is a basic knotting method that even beginners can do easily.



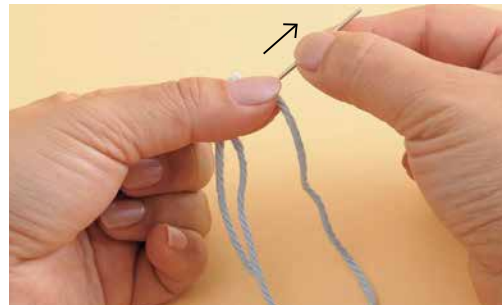
1 Place the needle at the position (yarn tail side) where you want to make the knot.



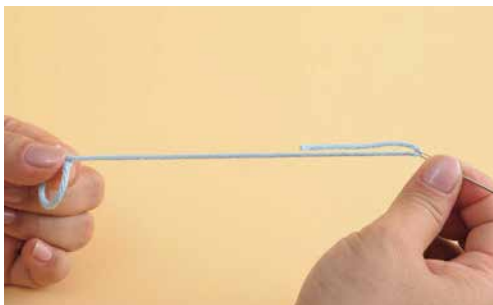
2 Wrap the yarn around the needle 3 times (or more if the yarn is thin).



3 Hold the wrapped part between your thumb and index finger.



4 Pull the needle while holding it, taking care not to lift your fingers.



5 Holding the wrapped part between your fingers, pull the thread all the way to the end.

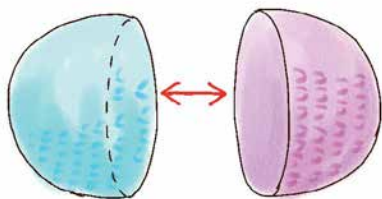


6 When the knot is complete, cut the yarn tail end short.

Seaming Methods

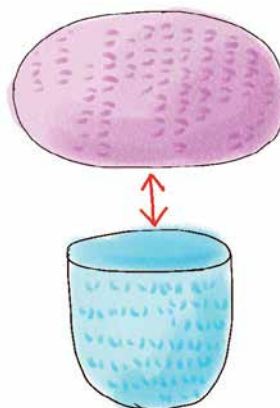
After crocheting the amigurumi parts, we assemble them. In this book, the seaming methods are organized by type below.

Seaming two bound-off edges



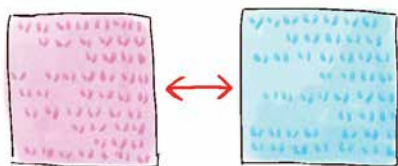
Seaming the stitches at the bound-off edges of two pieces.

Seaming bound-off edge to another surface



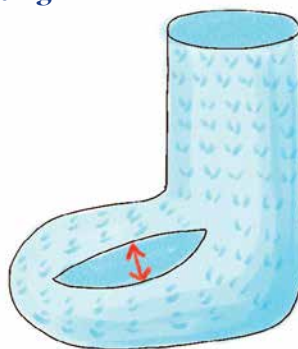
Seaming the end of one three-dimensional piece to another three-dimensional piece. There are three methods: whipstitch, woven, and folded.

Seam sides together



Seaming the sides edges of two surfaces. The seam finish varies depending on how you pick up the stitches.

Grafting



Seaming the edges of a single piece together.

Seaming Two Bound-off Edges

This is a method of seaming two pieces with yarn or thread.

※Here we use a contrasting color to seam for ease of understanding.



1 Thread the needle with the yarn tail of the purple piece. Insert needle into last stitch from inside to outside.



2 Align purple and pink pieces at their turning posts; pass the needle from the outside of the next stitch to the inside.



3 Pass the needle from inside of the stitch next to the stitch in step 1 to the outside.



4 1 stitch seamed.

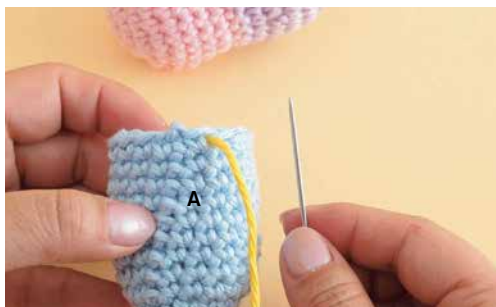


5 Pull the yarn through one stitch at a time to sew pieces together. 4 sts seamed.

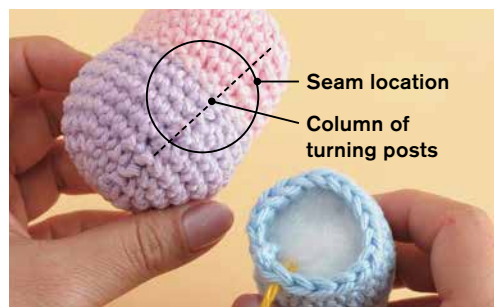
Seaming Bound-off Edge to Another Surface

Methods for attaching pieces to the side of the crocheted fabric. There are differences in the finish depending on technique, so use the method that best suits your needs.

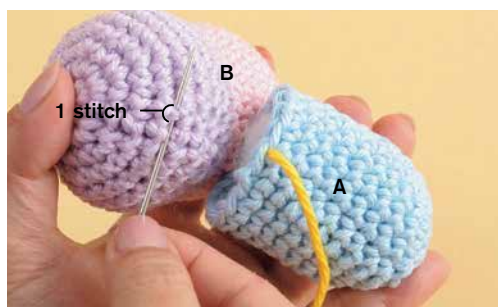
► Woven seam



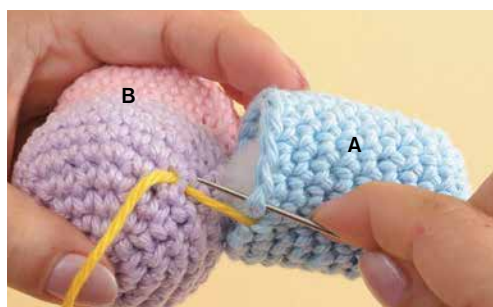
1 Thread yarn tail of part A (blue) through needle; pass needle out through first st as shown.



2 Check the position of the pieces. Place them so that their turning posts are inconspicuous.



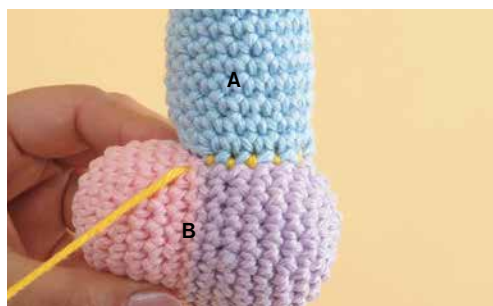
3 Pass needle through 1 st of part B (pink and purple).



4 Insert needle into top loops of st on part A (blue) from outside to inside.

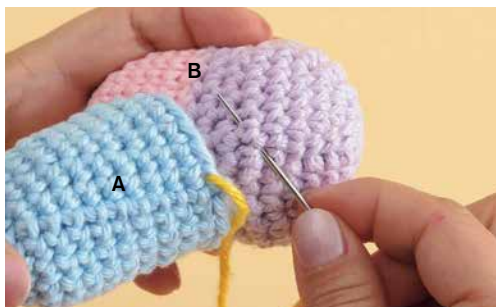


5 Return the needle to the position where the yarn comes out of B; pull the needle out through the stitch one over from the first stitch.

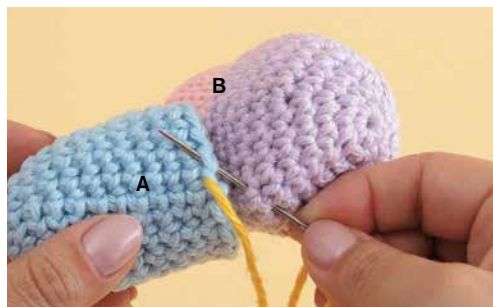


6 Repeat steps 4–5 until entire piece is seamed.

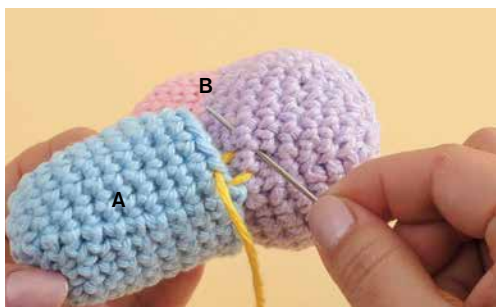
► Whipstitch



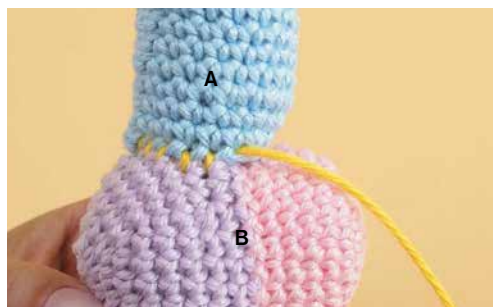
1 Pass the yarn tail of the piece you want to attach (part A (blue)) through the needle; pass needle out to right side. Insert needle diagonally at the position where you want to attach B (pink and purple).



2 Insert the needle into top loops of next stitch of part A from back to front.



3 Insert the needle into next stitch of part B at an angle.



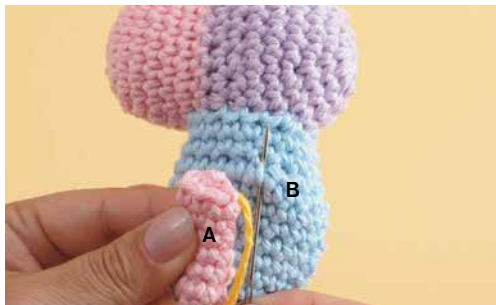
4 Repeat steps 2–3 until seam is complete.

By pulling the yarn through firmly one stitch at a time, you can achieve a beautiful finish.

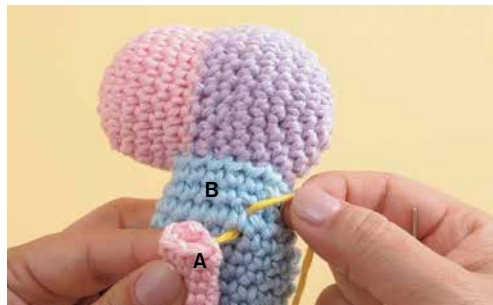


Seaming Bound-off Edge to Another Surface (cont'd)

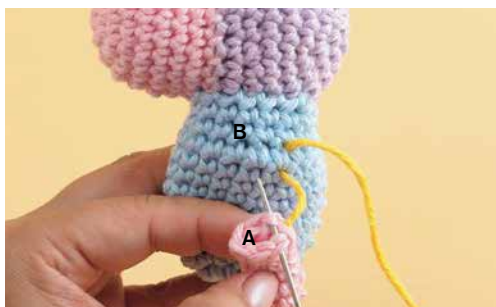
► Folded seam



1 You will fold part A (pink) and seam it as follows: Thread part A's yarn tail through needle. Insert needle into st on part B (blue) at the position where you want to attach A.



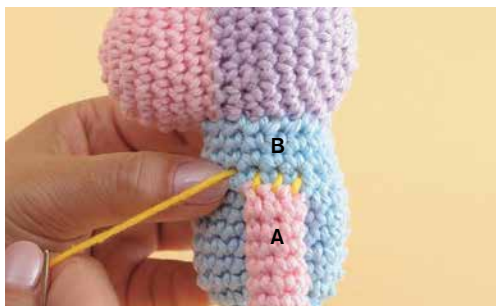
2 Yarn threaded from A to B.



3 Flatten part A so that the sts of bound-off edge line up. Insert needle through 2 sts at once as shown.



4 Insert needle into st next to st from step 1.

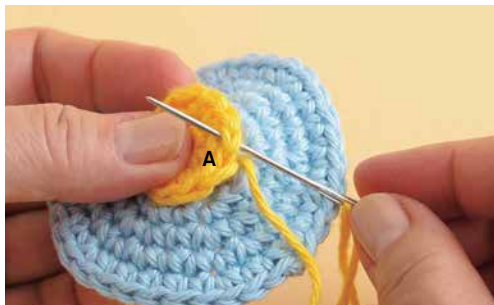


5 Seam completed.

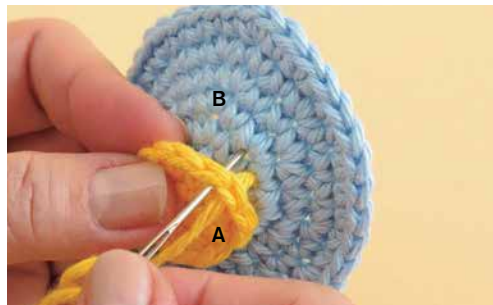
Seaming One Piece on Top of Another Piece

Seam one piece on top of another with both right sides facing you. The finish changes depending on how you stitch the upper piece.

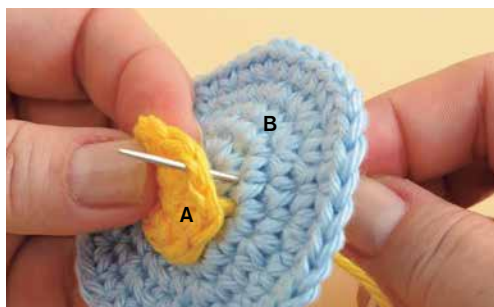
► **Seam with top loops visible:** Use when you want to leave part A as it is.



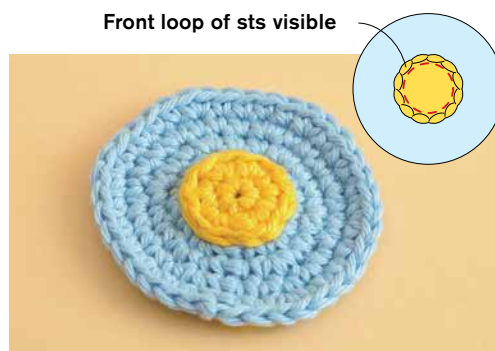
1 Thread yarn tail of part A (yellow) through needle. Insert needle into top loops of stitch from back to front.



2 Insert needle into next st from front to back through corresponding st of part B (blue).

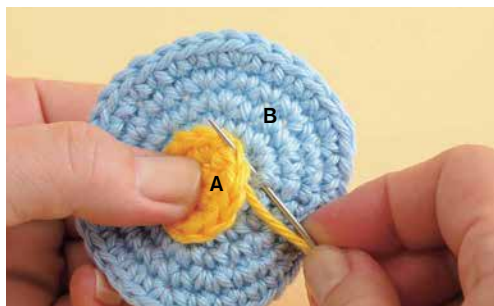


3 Insert needle into part B from back to front through corresponding st of part A (yellow).



4 Repeat steps **2-3** until seam is complete.

► **Seam through back loops:** Use when you want to make the edge of part A stand out



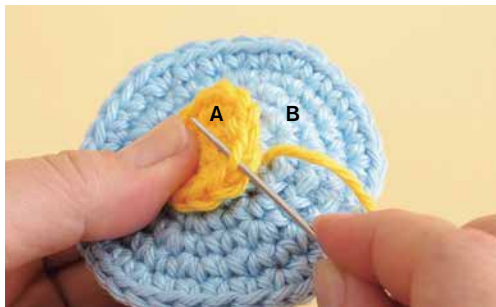
1 Insert needle under back loop only of part A.



2 Insert needle through one st of part B (blue) and into back loop of st on part A. Repeat.

Seaming One Piece on Top of Another Piece (cont'd)

► **Seam through front loops:** Use to blend the edge of part A into the other piece because it is thin.

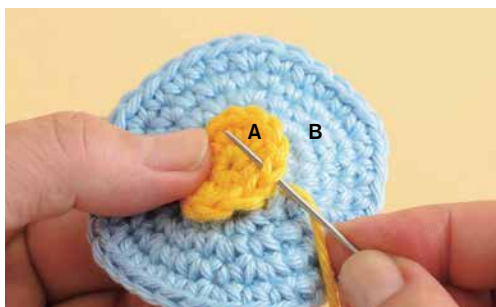


1 Insert needle under front loop only of part A.



2 Insert needle through one st of part B (blue) and into front loop of st on part A. Repeat.

► **Seam through top loops:** Use when you want to attach part A firmly.



1 Insert needle under both top loops of stitch.



2 Insert needle through top loops of part B (blue) and then top loops of st on part A. Repeat.



Change the way you insert the needle depending on the finish you want.

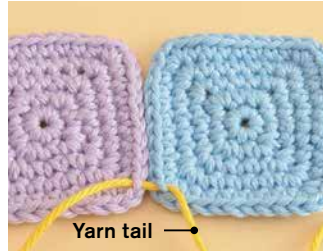
Seam Sides Together

Join two adjacent flat pieces together. The impression of the finished product changes depending on how you insert the needle into the stitches.

► Seam through front loops



1 Insert needle through front loops of st on each piece as shown.



2 Pull yarn through, leaving a tail approximately 6" (15 cm) long.

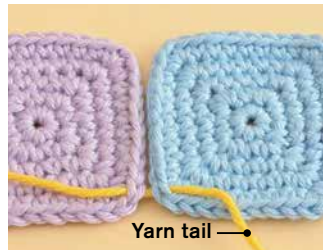


3 Repeat, inserting needle into front loop of right side st and then front loop of left side st, pulling yarn snug as you go.

► Seam through top loops: Use when you want to attach the pieces together securely.



1 Insert needle under both top loops of right side st and left side st.



2 Pull yarn through, leaving a tail approximately 6" (15 cm) long.



3 Repeat, inserting needle into top loops of right side st and then top loops of left side st, pulling yarn snug as you go.

► Seam through back loops: Use when you want to make the edges of the fabric stand out.



1 Insert needle through back loops of st on each piece as shown. Leave a tail approximately 6" (15 cm) long.



2 Pull yarn through.



3 Repeat, inserting needle as in step 1, until seam is complete. The finished seam will have clear lines.

Seam Sides Together (cont'd)

► **Seam through back loop on one side and top loops on other side: Use for a finish with a ridge similar to sc tbl**



1 On one side (light blue), insert needle into back loop only. On the other side (purple), insert needle into top loops.



2 Pull yarn through.



3 Insert the needle again as in step 1.

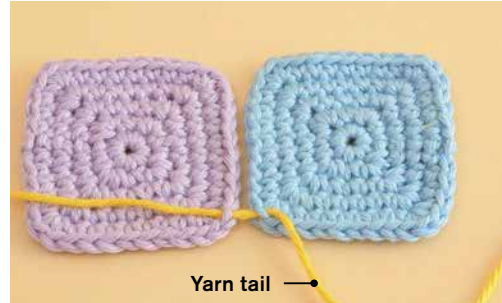


4 Repeat until seam is complete.

► **Woven seam:** Use when you do not want to make the seam stitches to stand out.



1 Insert needle through front loops of each piece as shown.



2 Pull yarn through, leaving a tail approximately 6" (15 cm) long.



3 Insert needle through front loop of next st on purple side, then through front loop of next st on blue side.



4 Repeat, making U-shaped sts.



5 Pulling the yarn snugly to tighten up the seam.

Seam Sides Together (cont'd)

► Woven seam through top loops



1 Insert needle through top loops of both left and right side sts.



2 Pull yarn through.



3 Insert needle through top loops of sts next to the ones you just sewed.



4 Pull yarn through.



5 Repeat, making U-shaped sts.



6 Pull the yarn snugly to tighten up the seam.



Attaching a Pocket

Attach pockets to amigurumi clothes or so that you can tuck items into your zakka.



1 Crochet pocket and piece to which you want to attach it. Leaving a long yarn tail on pocket, thread tail through tapestry needle.



2 With pocket's yarn tail on the right side, seam pocket to main piece. Do not sew opening at top of pocket.



3 Pocket attached. In this sample, needle has been inserted through top loops of each st.

The detailed method for seaming one piece on top of another can be found on pages 121–122.





Surface Crochet

Join yarn to the surface of an existing piece of crocheted fabric and work new stitches. The examples here demonstrate how to work sc (page 40) vertically or horizontally with respect to the crocheted fabric.

► Hook inserted vertically: A method for natural-looking stitches



1 Insert the hook vertically under a stitch; YO with the (yellow) yarn in your left hand.



2 Pull the yarn toward you to join the yarn.



3 ch1 for turning post.



4 Insert the hook into the same st as in step 1.



5 Work 1 sc (page 40).



6 Continue in this manner for all required sts.

► **Hook inserted horizontally: For surface crochet with a slim finish**



1 Insert the hook horizontally into the st where you want to add surface crochet.



2 YO with the (yellow) yarn in your left hand to join the yarn.



3 ch1 for turning post.



4 Insert hook into next st.



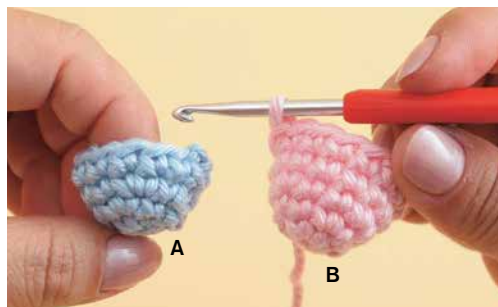
5 Work 1 sc (page 40).



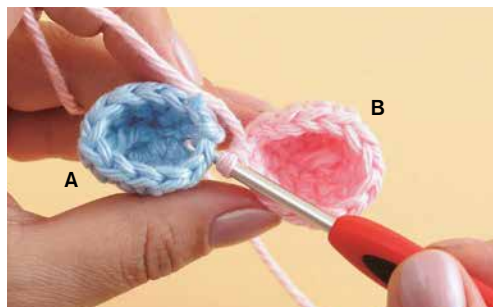
6 Continue, always working sideways into the next st.

Combining Pieces

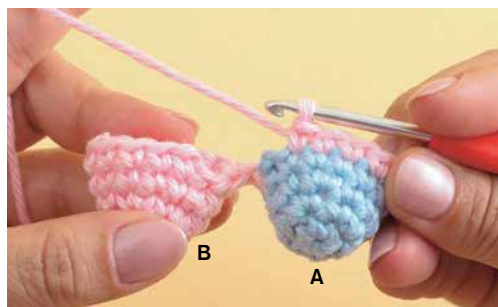
A method of crocheting two parts side by side. You continue crocheting with the yarn used for one of the pieces.



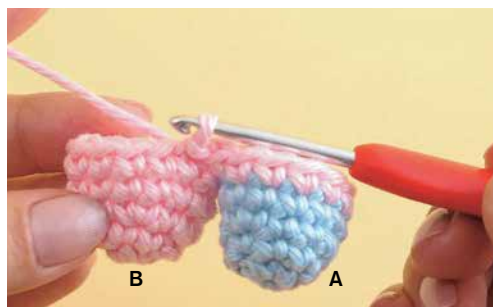
1 Crochet part A (blue) you want to connect first; crochet part B (pink) up to the front of the part you want to connect.



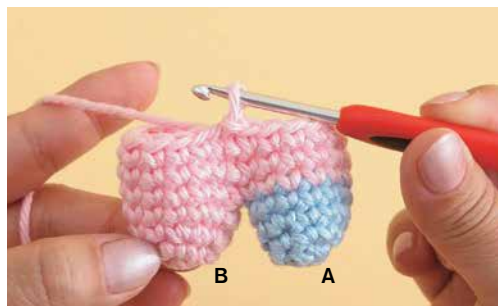
2 Continue crocheting with the yarn from part B. Insert hook into the st you want to work on part A.



3 Continue working part A; 1 round of part A completed.



4 Work 1 sl st (page 50) to return to part B. A and B now connected.



5 Since the boundary between A and B has disappeared, now you can just continue crocheting in one piece.

Inserting Stuffing

After crocheting the parts, stuff them with cotton or other stuffing such as polyfiber filling to complete each part. Use tweezers for small parts.



1 Taking the stuffing little by little, gather it lightly and grab it with tweezers.



2 Insert stuffing into the hole at the bind-off edge. Push it in deeply in order to fill the inside of the piece.



3 You will need stuffing equal to about 3 times the size of the piece. Make sure that the stuffing is even, inserting more if necessary.

If you don't use enough stuffing, your item won't retain its shape, so pack it firmly.





Cinching Shut

Cinch the opening shut after stuffing the item.



1 Pass the needle through the front loops of each st.



2 Insert needle under top loops of first st from back to front.



3 Insert needle into front loop only of next st.



4 Continue around all sts. (Shown here with yellow yarn for clarity.)



5 Pull yarn firmly to cinch the hole shut; weave in the end (page 149).



Inserting Parts

You can also insert parts that make noise, such as plastic bells and whistles, into the amigurumi.



1 Fill the part with stuffing.



2 Make a hole in the stuffing with your finger.



3 Insert the part into the hole (here, a plastic bell).



4 The part has been inserted. To ensure that the part stays in the middle, insert more stuffing and close with a lid, or seam another piece to this one.

Why not insert parts that make noise into amigurumi for babies?





Inserting Cardboard

When you want to stabilize the bottom or another surface, insert a piece of cardboard.



1 Cut a piece of cardboard slightly smaller than the piece you want to insert it into.



2 Insert the cut piece of cardboard into the crocheted piece.



3 Push the cardboard to the bottom.



4 If you want to make a cylinder, insert stuffing after bottom cardboard piece, then insert another piece of cardboard on top before attaching lid.



It's a good idea to use sturdy craft cardboard.



Attaching a Lid

This is a method of crocheting a lid as a separate piece rather than using decreases.



1 Leave a long yarn tail when binding off lid. Thread yarn tail onto tapestry needle and pass needle to right side of fabric.



2 Insert needle into top loops of st on bottom piece, then into back loop only of corresponding st on lid.



3 Repeat step 2 around the edge. If inserting cardboard into lid, insert cardboard when seam is about halfway complete.



4 Completed lid.

Inserting Wire

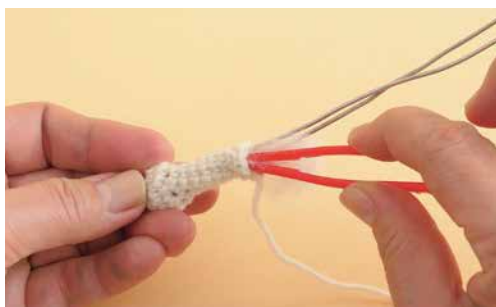
Put a wire inside to allow you to pose the amigurumi. Here we will explain how to insert wires into arms and legs.



1 The wire should be 18 to 16 gauge (1mm to 1.5mm thick) and about 5 times longer than the arm & leg pieces. Roll middle into a ring so that it doesn't poke out of the sts, then fold it in half.



2 Insert the wire so that the rounded end is at the bottom of the arm/leg.



3 Fill the gap between the fabric and the wire with stuffing.



4 Thread the yarn tail from the beginning of the piece through the needle (or use a new strand of yarn); bring it out at the tip of that piece. Pass the yarn on the needle through the piece 2–3 times (page 149), making sure it passes through the wire loop.



5 Insert wire between sts at the position where you want to attach the piece.



6 Use the yarn tails left after binding off to seam pieces together.



7 After the seam is complete, weave in the end on the wrong side (page 151).



8 One part attached.



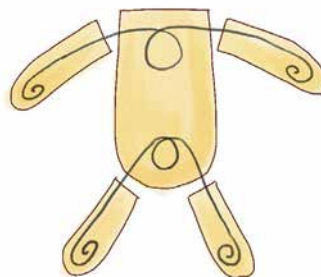
9 Attach the remaining parts in the same manner.



10 Once all parts have been attached, twist ends of wires together to make them smaller. If they are too long, trim them first.



11 Wrap wire with masking tape so that tips do not poke out



If the parts are small or the wire is thick, insert the wire as a single piece.

AN
AMIGURUMI
GALLERY

3



Frankenstein with a face you just can't resist! By embroidering eyelids above the glued-on googly eyes, you can tailor the expression any way you like.

※Samples for illustration purposes only.



The mane is made of multicolored fringe. The technique of working the legs as one piece with the torso creates a look of sweet simplicity.



This fish's charming, chubby shape is accented with a scale pattern worked in different colors.

Even with a lion, if the shape is different, the overall impression changes completely. The frilly mane enhances this lion's gentle expression.



A kitten with an impressively long tail and blue glass eyes. A mohair hat adds a sense of cozy warmth.





The classic folk craft wooden bear carving, sold as a souvenir in Hokkaido, is so cute when made into an amigurumi.

Chapter 5

Finishing

A beautiful finish can be achieved by properly mastering bind-off and methods for weaving in yarn tails. We have also summarized finishing methods such as how to attach pieces and hair.

Finishing

There are various methods for binding off crochet and weaving in the ends after seaming.

Binding Off

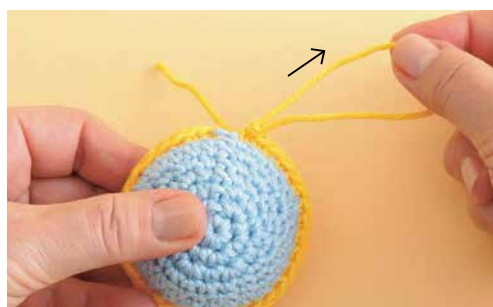
Here we explain three ways to bind off (also known as fastening off). The invisible bind-off is a method of making your bind-off blend in with the stitches. The standard bind-off and slip stitch bind-off methods are very simple.



► Invisible bind-off



1 Cut the yarn, leaving a tail approximately 8" (20 cm).



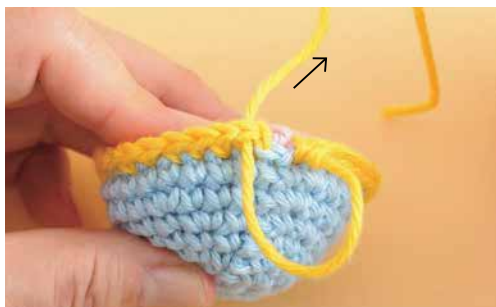
2 Remove hook and pull out yarn tail side of the loop.



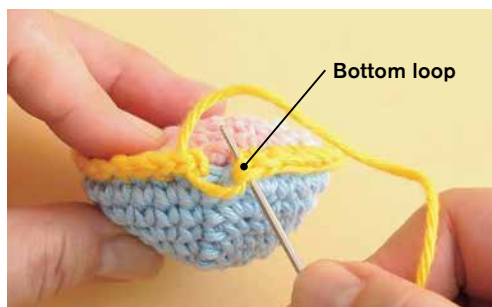
3 Thread tapestry needle with yarn tail.



4 Insert needle into top loops of first st.



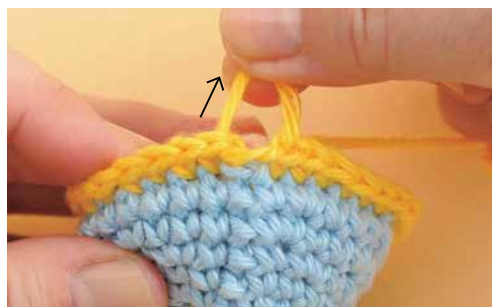
5 Pull the yarn, but not too much.



6 Insert needle back where the yarn comes out (under top loops of last st). Also insert needle under bottom loop.



7 Continue pulling the yarn little by little.



8 First, pull yarn until yarn on front side is same width as top loops of sts on either side of it.



9 Next, pull yarn tail until yarn at the back is also same width as top loops on either side of it.



10 Invisible bind-off completed.

Binding Off (cont'd)

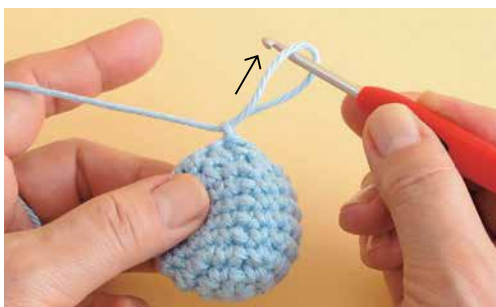
► Standard bind-off method: A basic bind-off method that doesn't come loose



1 Work 1 sl st (page 50) as in steps **1-3** of slip st bind-off (page 145), then YO.



2 Ch 1 (page 35) with the yarn on hook from step **1**.



3 Pull the end of the yarn.

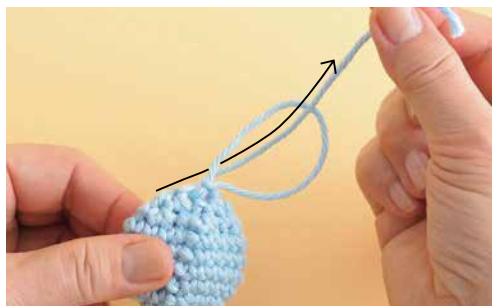


4 This is a secure method of binding off. It's the most common bind-off method.

► Hookless method



1 Work 1 sl st (page 50) as in steps **1-3** of slip st bind-off (page 145), then enlarge loop and remove hook.



2 Pull yarn tail through middle of loop and tighten it firmly until loop is closed.

► **Slip stitch bind-off:** This bind-off will loosen over time, so it's essential to weave in the yarn tail with a tapestry needle.



1 You will sl st (page 50) to bind off. Insert hook into first st.



2 YO.



3 Pull yarn through all loops on hook.



4 Remove hook; cut yarn, leaving 8" (20 cm) tail.



5 Pull on the loop on yarn tail side.



6 Pull out the yarn tail.

Securing Yarn Tails ①

Double Knot

If you change the yarn during a project, tie the yarn tails at the back of the work to secure them. They won't unravel easily because the yarn will be knotted twice.



1 Trim the yarn tails (from binding off and color changes) to 4" (10 cm) each.



2 Cross the 2 strands shown.



3 Wrap one strand around the other as shown by the arrow in 2.



4 Wrap the strands again as shown by the arrow in 3.



5 Pull both strand, knotting close to fabric.



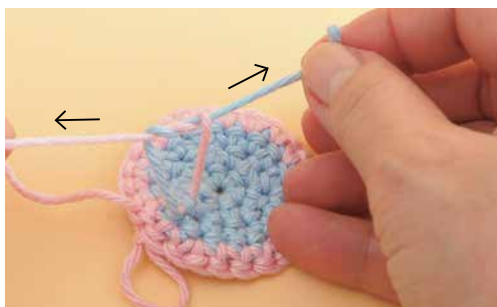
6 Cross the 2 strands again.



7 Repeat step 3.



8 Repeat step 4.



9 Pull the 2 strands to the left and right.



10 Knot firmly on surface of fabric.



11 Trim yarn tails to $\frac{3}{8}$ " (1 cm).



12 Finishing complete.

Securing yarn tails ②

Crochet Over Yarn Tail

This is a method of crocheting over the yarn tail when changing the yarn.

※The explanation here is for single crochet, but the same method works for other stitches.



1 After changing to the new color (pink), insert hook into next st.



2 Place the yarn (blue) you want to weave in over the hook.



3 YO with the pink yarn.



4 Work 1 sc (page 40).



5 After working 5 sc in the same way, trim blue strand to $\frac{3}{16}$ " (5mm).



6 The end of the blue strand is now enclosed in the pink sts.

Weaving in Ends ①

Pass Through Stuffing

After cinching a piece shut or seaming amigurumi parts together, weave in the end by passing it through the stuffing.



1 Thread tapestry needle with yarn tail. If cinching shut, after binding off, insert needle into center.



2 Pass needle through the stuffing and pull out from between sts. If the yarn tail is the same color as the section where you're weaving it in, it won't be noticeable.



3 Pull the yarn through, taking care not to pull too hard so that you don't pucker the fabric.



4 Lay needle over place where you took needle out; wrap yarn around needle 3 times.



5 While pressing wrapped yarn with finger, pull out the needle, creating a French knot.

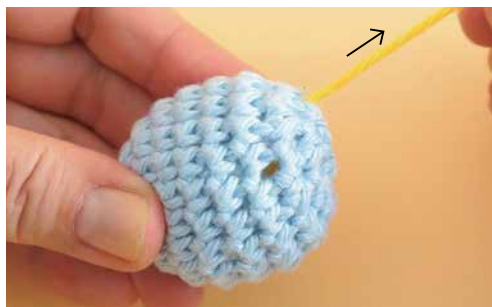


6 Insert needle back into the same place where yarn was pulled out in step **3**; bring it out from a different place.

Weaving in Ends ① Pass Through Stuffing (cont'd)



7 Slowly pull the yarn.



8 Pull yarn until the knot goes beneath surface of fabric.



9 Insert needle back into place where the yarn was pulled out. Pass through the stuffing and back out as shown; pull the yarn. Do not tie a knot.



10 Repeat step **9** once or twice.



11 When finished, cut the yarn close to the surface of the fabric.

Weaving in Ends ②

Weave End on Wrong Side

This is a method for items that have no stuffing. The yarn tail is woven in on the back side of the crocheted fabric. It looks best when the yarn tail is the same color as the fabric.



1 Thread yarn tail (either from binding off or tail left after seaming) through tapestry needle. Pass needle through sts on back side, taking care that yarn doesn't show through on right side.



2 Pull yarn through sts. Take care not to pull too tightly so that fabric doesn't pucker.



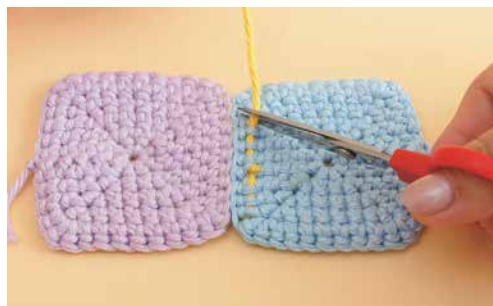
3 Insert needle back through last st.



4 After inserting needle in step 3, insert needle into a few more sts.



5 Pull yarn through sts.

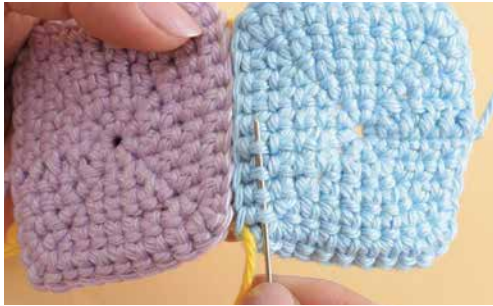


6 Cut yarn tail to 1/8" (5mm).

Weaving in Ends ③

Weave End on Wrong Side, Folded Back

This is a method for finishing the ends that is essentially the same as weaving the ends on the wrong side (page 151), but if there is not enough room to weave through a long section of stitches, you can turn and weave in two directions.



1 Thread yarn tail through tapestry needle. Insert needle into sts on wrong side as in steps **1-2** of weaving in ends ② (page 151).



2 Pull yarn through sts.



3 Insert needle into sts in opposite direction as in step **1**.



4 Stop when you have returned to the first st from step **1**.



5 Pull yarn through sts. Take care not to pull too tightly so that fabric doesn't pucker.



6 Cut yarn tail to $\frac{1}{8}$ " (5mm).

Embellishment

Let's finish the assembled amigurumi by adding facial expressions and hair with embroidery and notions.

How to Get Started with Embroidery

Always begin with this method when embroidering faces, limbs, etc. The embroidery thread will not unravel, and the finish is beautiful.

When embroidering amigurumi, it can also be cute to use yarn instead of embroidery thread.



1 Thread embroidery thread (or yarn) through needle and knot the end. Insert needle between sts; bring it back out between sts a few sts away.



2 Slowly pull yarn through.



3 Pull thread slowly until knot is inside. Make sure the thread is secure.



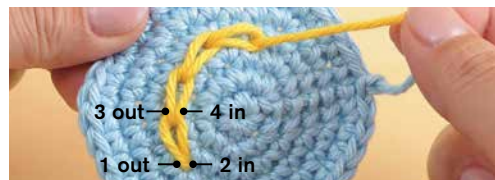
4 Insert needle into place where the thread emerges; bring it back out where you want to begin embroidery.

Various Embroidery Stitches

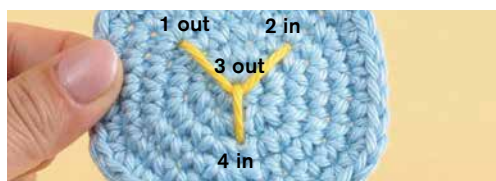
Here are 10 types of embroidery stitches that are often used in amigurumi.



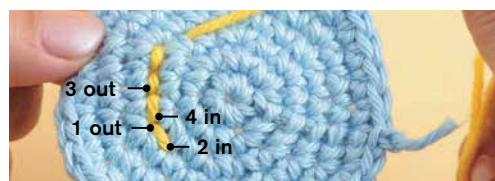
Straight stitch → [Page 155](#)



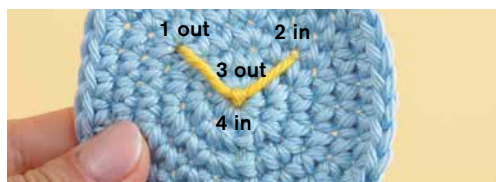
Chain stitch → [Page 159](#)



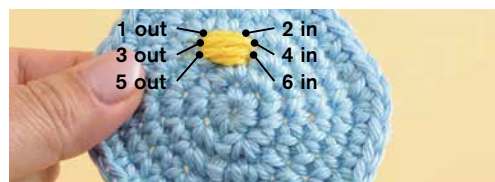
Fly stitch → [Page 156](#)



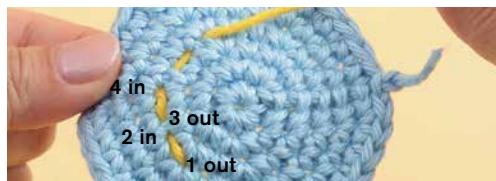
Backstitch → [Page 160](#)



Fly stitch (V-shaped) → [Page 157](#)



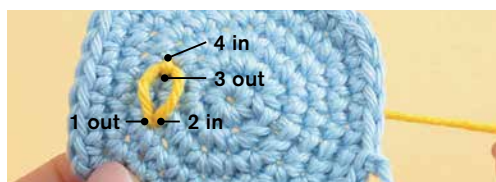
Satin stitch → [Page 161](#)



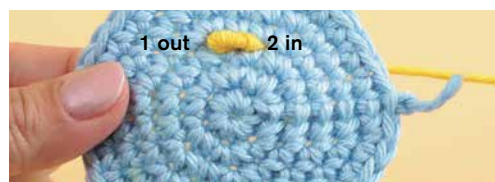
Running stitch → [Page 157](#)



French knot stitch → [Page 162](#)



Lazy daisy stitch → [Page 158](#)



Bullion stitch → [Page 163](#)



Straight Stitch

This is a stitch where you insert the needle straight across from where you brought it out. Use it when you want to create a line.



1 Insert needle from back of fabric to the front.



2 Insert needle from front to back.



3 1 straight st (2 crochet sts wide) completed.



4 1 straight st (2 rounds high) completed.

My toes and whiskers
are also worked in
straight stitch.





Fly Stitch

This is a stitch that makes a Y shape. It is often used for animal noses and such.



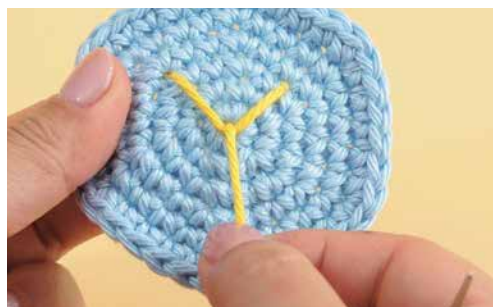
1 Insert needle from back to front at upper left part of the Y.



2 Insert needle into upper right part of Y.



3 Insert needle from back to front at center of Y. Make sure it is above the yarn from steps 1-2.



4 Pull yarn to form Y shape.



5 Insert needle into lower part of Y shape. Choose a length appropriate for the expression you want to make.



6 Fly stitch completed.



Fly Stitch (V-shaped)

This is a V-shaped stitch made by shortening the leg of a Y-shaped fly stitch.



1 Work steps 1-4 of fly stitch (page 156), but insert needle back into place where it exited in step 3.

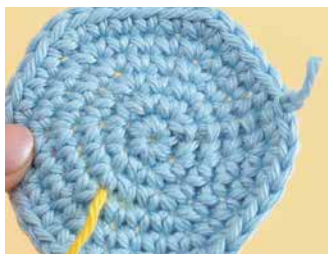


2 V-shaped fly stitch completed.



Running Stitch

This is a stitch where the needle is taken in and out at regular intervals. Use it when you want to create a dotted line.



1 Insert needle from back to front where you want running stitch to begin.



2 Repeat the process of passing needle in and out of the fabric.



3 Bringing the needle in and out at regular intervals makes a beautiful finish.



Lazy Daisy Stitch

Stitches that create petal-like patterns. It's easy if you follow steps for inserting the needle in order.



1 Insert the needle from back to front at starting position.



2 Insert needle into same position as in step **1**; take it back out at position which will be tip of stitch.



3 Wrap yarn under needle as shown.



4 Pull yarn through.



5 Secure loop by inserting needle back through position where needle came out in step **2**.



6 Lazy daisy stitch completed.



Chain Stitch

Like lazy daisy stitch, the stitches will be connected like a chain.



1 Work steps **1-3** of lazy daisy st (page 158).



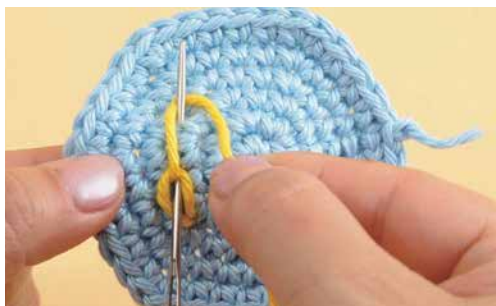
2 Pull yarn through. 1 stitch completed.



3 Insert needle into same location it came out in step **1**.



4 Bring needle out at tip of next stitch. Make stitch same length as in **1** so sts will be the same size.



5 Wrap yarn under needle as shown.



6 Repeat. Finish embroidery as in lazy daisy step **5**.



Backstitch

You can achieve a clean line without any gaps by repeating “out 1 stitch back, in 2 stitches forward.”



1 Insert needle from the back to front one stitch ahead of the start position; pull yarn through.



2 Go back one stitch and insert the needle from front to back. The width between the yarn and needle will be the width of the stitch.



3 Bring needle out at the position where you brought it out in step 1.



4 Pull yarn through. 1 stitch completed.



5 Insert needle where it was brought out in step 1; bring it out 1 st ahead of the position where the needle was brought out in step 3.



6 Repeat.



Satin Stitch

This is a stitch used to fill a surface. It is often used on the tips of animal noses.



1 Insert needle from back to front.



2 Insert needle to width you want to fill with embroidery; bring it out just below where you brought it out in step 1.



3 Pull yarn through. Your st should cover the entire width of the area you want to fill from edge to edge.



4 Insert needle just below the position where needle was pulled out in step 2; repeat the same procedure to fill the surface.

The key to a clean finish is not to pull the thread too much.





French Knot Stitch

This is a stitch featuring a French knot. It is used when embroidering the eyes of a small amigurumi, for example.



1 Insert needle from back to front where you want the knot to be.



2 Place needle alongside place where you brought yarn out in step 1; hold needle with left hand.



3 Wrap the yarn around the needle 2–3 times.



4 Holding wrapped section down with your thumb, pull needle through.



5 Insert needle back into the position where you pulled it out in step 1.



6 French knot stitch completed.



Bullion Stitch

The stitch you make will be as long as the wrapped section on your needle. Use it when you want to make an embroidered nose a little more three-dimensional.



1 Insert needle from back to front.



2 Holding needle at place where needle came out in step 1, wind yarn around needle (photo shows 5 wraps). The stitch will be as wide as the yarn wrapped around the needle.



3 While holding the wrapped yarn around the needle with your left finger, slowly pull out the needle.



4 Needle pulled out.



5 Insert needle at end of wrapped section from front to back to complete bullion stitch.



Attaching Notions

Notions such as eyes and noses can be attached using an adhesive. If you follow this procedure properly, they will not be easy to remove.



1 For notions with posts, first try inserting them into the amigurumi without glue to determine the best position. (Use a sewing pin to mark the location of notions to be pasted or sewn into place).



2 Firmly make a hole with a bodkin at the position where you want to insert the notion.



3 Apply adhesive to post of the notion. You can prevent over-application of glue by putting the post into the nozzle.



4 Insert the notion into the hole created in step 2.



5 Insert bodkin from under the crocheted fabric; lift fabric to bond the notion to the fabric firmly.



Gluing Thread Down

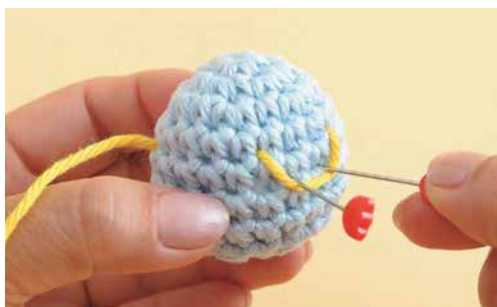
By gluing yarn to the surface, you can make mouths, noses, and so on. Sew the beginning and end points of the desired shape, then tack down the yarn with glue to affix it to the amigurumi.



1 Thread a tapestry needle with the yarn you want to glue onto the amigurumi. Bring needle out from endpoint and insert needle on opposite end.



2 Pull yarn through, leaving as much as you need to glue down.



3 Making sure the yarn placement is well-balanced, insert pins to create the shape you want. Weave in the ends (page 149).



4 Put some glue on a piece of paper.



5 Gather some of the glue from step 4 onto a fine-tipped object, apply it to the yarn, and press it down.



6 In the same way, apply glue under the yarn to paste it down.

Attach Hair

There are various methods of applying hair to amigurumi. Each one makes a different impression, so find the one you like best.

Crocheted-in Hair

Hair can be made by changing the yarn color while crocheting the head instead of adding the hair afterwards.



You can create a typical boy's hairstyle just by crocheting with a suitable yarn color.



Make “Helmet” Wig and Attach to Head

Crochet a wig shaped like a helmet, place it on the head, and secure it in place.

※See page 233 for the crochet diagram.



1 Crochet a helmet-shaped wig separately from the head.



2 Decide where to put the hair and pin it in place. Sew into wrong side of wig so the stitches won't show.



3 Sew wrong side of bangs to forehead. The bangs will look more natural if you sew a little bit in from the edge.



Attach a Bundle of Hair

Create a girl's hairstyle by looping yarn, tying it together at the center, and attaching it to the head.



1 Wrap the yarn around your fingers (as many fingers wide as the hair bundle you want to make).



2 Wrap yarn until you have desired amount.



3 Remove your fingers from inside the loops and hold the bundle together.



4 Wrap yarn tail around center and knot it.



5 Bundle of hair completed.



6 Thread needle with yarn tail and stitch bundle to the head.



Make a Ponytail

Make a tassel from a bundle of hair and attach it to the top of the head to make a girly ponytail.



1 Wrap the yarn around your fingers to make a hair bundle as in steps **1** and **2** in “attach a bundle of hair” (page 167).



2 Remove the bundle from your fingers.



3 Pass a separate strand of yarn through center of bundle.



4 Knot center of bundle. Tie it tightly several times to prevent it from coming loose.



5 Cut the loop with scissors at the end opposite the knot.



6 Steam ponytail with a steam iron.



7 Thread the yarn tails of the ponytail (knotted in step 4) onto a needle; sew ponytail to head.



8 Ponytail completed.



Make a Bun

By winding yarn into a ball and attaching it to the upper part of the head, you can make a girl's bun hairstyle.



1 Wind yarn into a small ball. Leave a long yarn tail.



2 Thread yarn tail through tapestry needle; seam bun to back of head.



3 Bun completed.



Crochet a Hairpiece and Attach to Head

Crochet the hair with chain stitch and slip stitch, then place it on the head and seam to secure in place.

※See page 233 for the crochet diagram.



1 Ch10 (page 35). This will be at the center of the head. For the first strand of hair, ch12.



2 Ch1 for turning post. Slip stitch (page 50) into bottom loops of chain from step 1.



3 12 sl st completed.



4 Begin next strand of hair.



5 Crochet second and subsequent strands in the same way.



6 All strands of hair crocheted. Leave a long yarn tail.



7 Place the hair on the head, position it as desired, and pin it in place.



8 Thread needle with yarn tail from step 6. Sew center of hairpiece to head.



9 Center sewn in place. After this, we will sew down the strands one by one.



10 Bring needle out near end of hair strand; insert needle through back of strand.



11 Stitch hair to face one strand at a time.



12 Hair has been attached to head.



Make Fringe for Hair

Create hair of any length with fringe (page 92). You can create a look similar to human hair.



1 Hold yarn up to head to determine length.



2 Cut yarn strands twice the length determined in step 1.



3 Insert crochet hook where you want to attach hair, fold strand of yarn in half, and place over hook as shown. You can do 2 strands at a time (shown here).



4 Pull up a loop.



5 Place your fingers in the loop you pulled out.



6 Grasp yarn tail(s) and pull through loop.



7 Pull yarn tail(s) to close the loop.



8 One piece of fringe attached.



9 Repeat until you get the volume of hair you want. Here, we used fringe on the back of the head and embroidery for the bangs.



10 When you have finished adding fringe, trim the ends of the hair to desired length.



11 Hair fringe (on back of head) completed.



Embroidering Hair

Here we embroider straight stitches directly into the head to create hair. We also recommended combining it with fringe (page 92).



1 In this example, the back of the hair is fringe and the bangs are embroidered on. Take a long piece of yarn, pull it out from the top of the head, and insert it where you want bangs to end.



2 Fill the area one stitch at a time. Don't pull too tightly on the yarn. Too much tension will spoil the head's shape.



3 The bangs are completed.



4 In a case where you're combining embroidery with fringe, bring needle out at boundary between embroidery and fringe.



5 Cover the boundary with straight stitches so that the base of the fringe is not visible.



6 The finished look.



Tint Cheeks with Embroidery

Just by adding a line of embroidery, you create the impression that the cheeks are slightly tinted.



Thread embroidery needle with yarn or thread in the color you want to use. Take needle out from the position where you want the stitch to begin; work a straight stitch. Satin stitch may also be used depending on the size of the area to be embroidered.

Have fun with color!

You can dye the yarn, add color with embroidery or felt, or you can tint the crocheted fabric with household items.

Things that can dye crocheted fabric

- Cosmetics (eyeshadow, blush, etc.)
- Crayons
- Permanent marker



Attach Felt

You can also attach felt to the face. Here we use it for the girl's cheeks.



1 Cut felt into the size and shape you want.



2 Here we cut two cheek pieces.



3 After determining best placement, apply the felt pieces, then attach them with adhesive.



Tint Fabric with Cosmetics

If you want to color only a small part of the crocheted fabric, such as a girl's cheek, you can also tint it with cosmetics.



1 Put some makeup in your favorite color on tip of applicator. We use eyeshadow here to color the cheeks.



2 Apply color where you want it.



Add Color with Acrylic Roving

Add color to the crocheted fabric by attaching roving to it with a felting needle. You can even mix several colors of roving to create your own color.



1 Tear off a small piece of acrylic roving, roll it to the size you want, and decide where to put it.



2 While holding the felt with one hand, pierce it with a felting needle through to the crocheted fabric behind it.

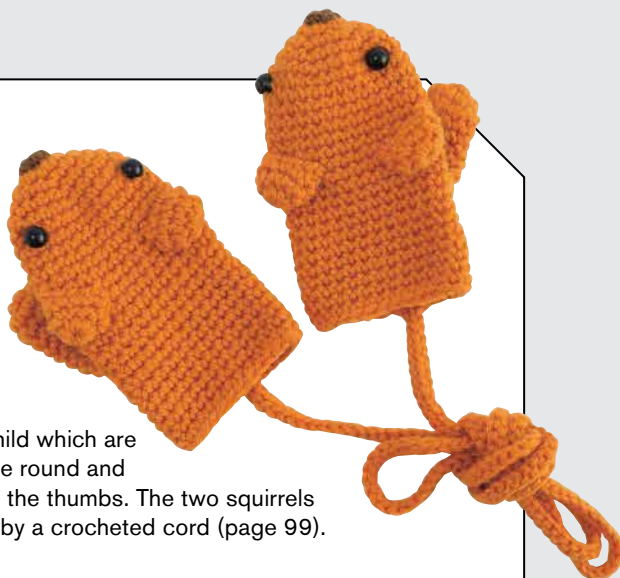


3 Continue piercing it while shaping it until it's attached to the crocheted fabric.

A cat card case with an L-shaped frame. Easy to finish because it doesn't have a gusset.



Mittens for a child which are crocheted in the round and seamed only at the thumbs. The two squirrels are connected by a crocheted cord (page 99).



Make Zakka

After crocheting designs such as animals, why not attach zippers, purse frames, metal findings, and so on to make them into portable amigurumi zakka? Be together with your favorites always....

ZAKKA



Bear cub coin purse with a purse frame. You can enjoy different results by using different yarn colors.

※See page 234 for the crochet diagram.



Whale shark card case. The bottom is flat, and the back is stuffed to make it three-dimensional.



Attaching a Purse Frame with Glue

Put adhesive in the groove of the purse frame and adhere it to the crocheted fabric. It slips easily, so this method is recommended for intermediate crocheters and above.



1 Prepare a purse frame (without holes), glue, pliers, bodkin, and a wooden craft stick.



2 Apply glue inside the groove on one side of the frame.



3 Spread the glue evenly with the stick.



4 Making sure the frame is centered, insert crocheted fabric into the groove, pushing it in with a bodkin.



5 Use the bodkin for the back side as well, checking that the fabric is properly inserted.



6 Hold just the corner of the frame (at hinge) with pliers and squeeze. The corner grips the fabric and holds it firmly in place.



Attaching a Purse Frame with Sewing Needle

Use a purse frame with holes for sewing with thread. Even beginners can easily attach one.



1 Thread a needle with sewing thread. The color of the thread is generally the same as the crocheted fabric, but you can also use a contrasting color.



2 Mark the center of the purse's mouth.



3 Insert needle through center of fabric on wrong side; backstitch to secure thread.



4 In order to balance the left and right sides, bring needle out from the center of the fabric from back to front (wrong side to right side).



5 Pull the thread to draw the fabric up into the groove of the purse frame.



6 While inserting fabric into the groove of the frame, secure it with backstitch. Insert needle 1 hole to the right from front to back.

Attaching a Purse Frame with Sewing Needle (cont'd)



7 Bring out needle from the hole 1 to the left of where the needle was pulled out in step 4.



8 Insert needle into the hole from step 4. Continue in this manner, bringing the yarn out 2 holes to the left and back in 1 hole to the right.



9 On the wrong side, the seam is visible just beneath the frame.



10 Purse frame attached. Attach the other side in the same way.

Make a Cozy

If you crochet a cylinder but do not insert any stuffing, it can be a lovely zakka item. You can use it as a cozy, for example, or a drawstring bag to hold a water bottle.





Insert a Zipper

Sew a zipper onto the crocheted fabric to make a pouch. We suggest using thread that matches the color of the crocheted fabric.



1 Align one side of pouch with zipper and pin in place.



2 Pin along entire length of zipper.



3 Tie thread knot and insert needle so knot is hidden by the crocheted fabric. First, insert needle through back loop of first st.



4 On zipper side, sew 1 st ahead of st in crocheted fabric.



5 Insert needle from front to back under back loop of next st.



6 Repeat steps 4–5.

Insert a zipper (cont'd)



7 One side of zipper inserted. The sts are visible on the wrong side.



8 Open zipper and pin remaining side to pouch.



9 Also be sure to seam gussets through back loops of sts.



10 Seam the other side in the same way.



11 Sew each end of zipper 3-4 times on wrong side to secure in place.



12 Zipper insertion completed.



Insert a Lining

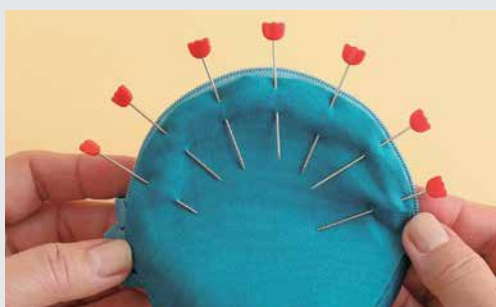
You can use crocheted fabric as-is, but if you insert a proper lining, you can put small items in it without catching the stitches.



1 Turn the crocheted fabric inside out. Make a lining the same size as the main body.



2 Insert main body upside down into lining; pin them together.



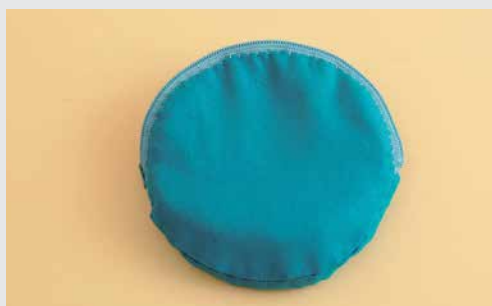
3 Pin evenly across.



4 Blind stitch lining to main body with sewing thread.



5 Push corners of gusset out; sew gusset to main body. As in step 3, pin the other side of gusset and then sew.



6 Lining inserted.

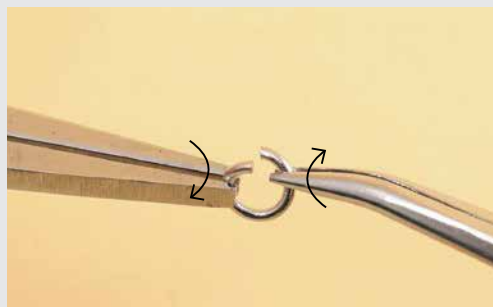


Attach Metal Findings (O-ring)

This is how to attach the most basic metal finding, an O-ring. Here, a lobster claw clasp is attached to the O-ring so it can be attached to a strap.



1 With open end of the O-ring facing up, hold both sides with pliers.



2 Twist the left and right pliers in the opposite direction to open O-ring.



3 Hold the O-ring with pliers and insert through crocheted fabric. A single stitch will be too weak, so it's a good idea to insert the ring through 2 sts (or 2 rounds).



4 Thread lobster claw clasp onto O-ring.



5 Holding left and right sides of O-ring with pliers again, twist in the opposite direction as in step 2 to close the ring.



6 Attach lobster claw clasp to a strap finding to make it a strap. Attaching a lobster claw clasp to the amigurumi side is convenient because it can be attached to other things as well.

Chapter 6

Create Original Designs

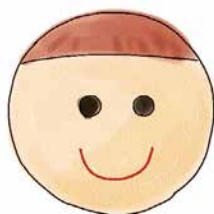
Here we've collected hints such as how to add facial expressions or decide on body proportion when planning your own toys.

In the Q & A, we tackle common questions about making original designs.

Thinking about the Parts of the Face

Eye Placement

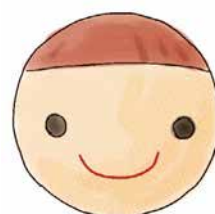
Depending on where you attach the eyes to the face, you may achieve a more mature or child-like look.



Close set



Average



Wide set

Snappy and adult-like



Cute and child-like

Eye Type

There are four main types of eyes. Make the best use of each feature.

Novelty eyes

The white of the eye is small with a large black iris. Impressively expressive eyes.



7.5mm



9mm



Colored 7.5mm



Black 7.5mm

Solid eyes

These are single-colored eyes which come in a variety of sizes and colors. For animals and humans, use round eyes.

Googly eyes

The middle of the eye moves around within the eyeball, giving it a unique appearance.



10mm



6mm

Glass eyes

The clear material is colored for a transparent and realistic finish.



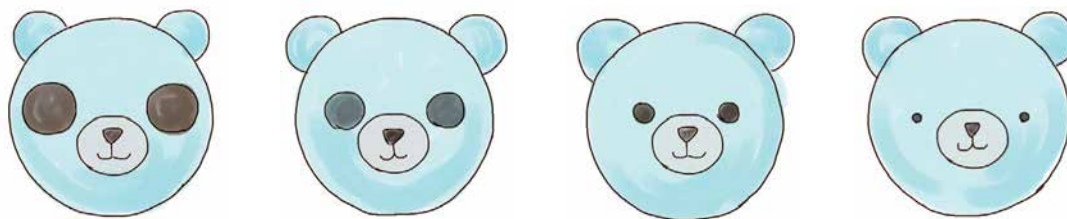
**8mm
Orange**



**6mm
Saxe blue**

Eye Size and Color

Even with the same type of eye parts, different sizes will change the impression of the face.



Large

Small

Strong ← **Impression of the face** → Weak

Size

All are solid black eyes.



7.5mm

6mm

5mm

2.5mm

Large ← → Tiny

Color

All are 6mm solid eyes.



Brown

Forest green

Grape

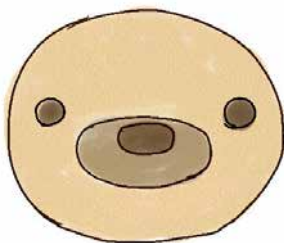
Chili pepper

Light blue

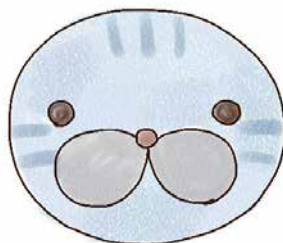
Thinking about the Parts of the Face (cont'd)

Nose and Mouth Variants

Animal noses (or snouts, beaks, etc.) come in so many varieties! There are various types, such as crocheted pieces seamed together, embroidered, and using nose pieces.



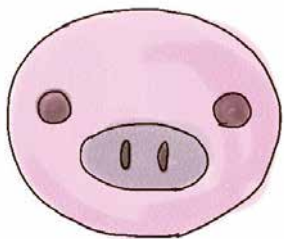
A standard oval or circular nose.



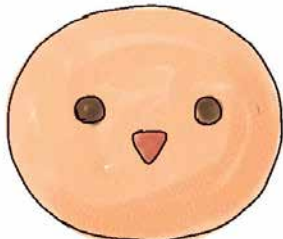
Two-piece nose for a comical look.



Add a beak to it to make it a bird.



Make oval nostrils for a pig.



Make the beak smaller for a chick.

Ear Variants

There are various possibilities for ears. Try various shapes and sizes when crocheting.



Frog



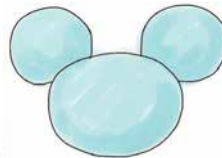
Dog



Rabbit



Cat



Mouse

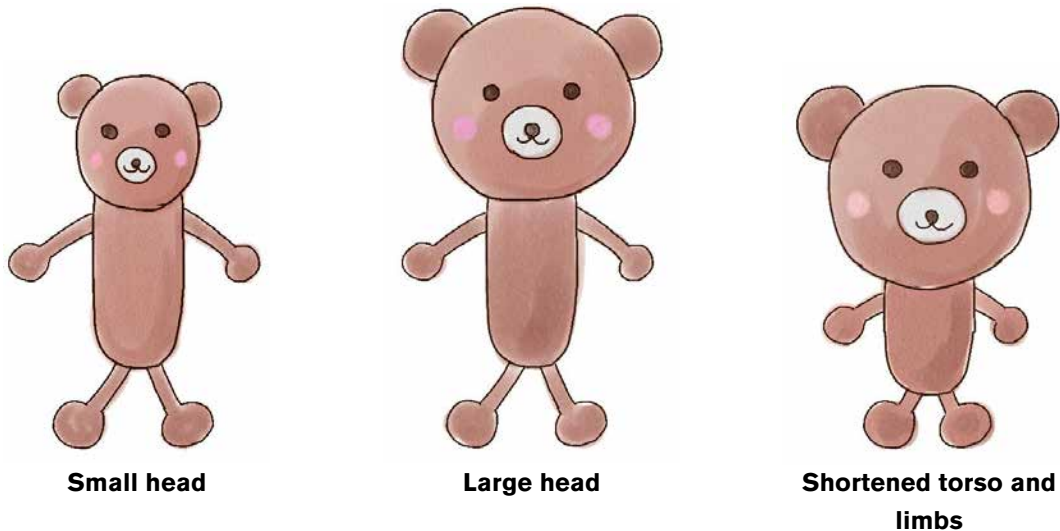


**Panda bear,
etc.**

Body Proportions and Color Schemes

Let's Think About the Size of the Head and Body

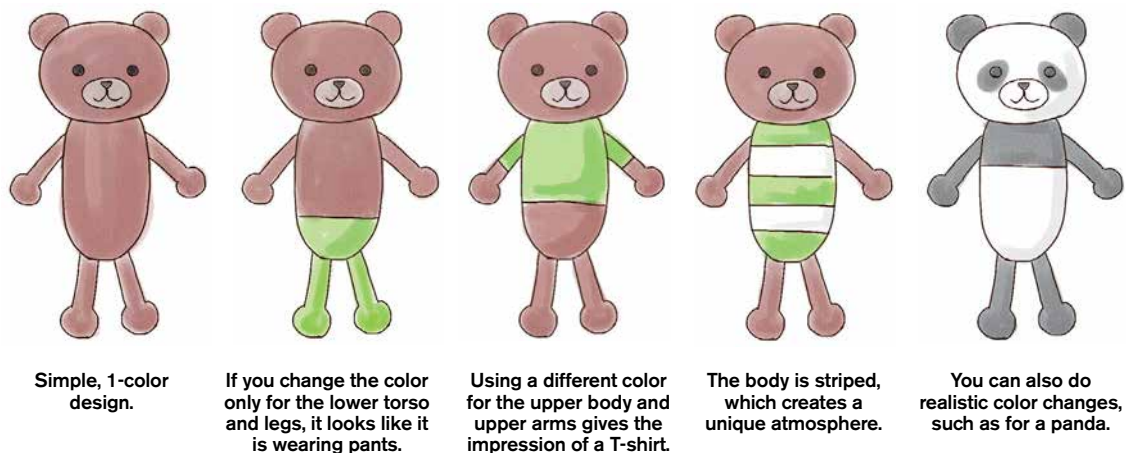
There are no rules for amigurumi, so consider the proportions needed for the image you want to create, such as one with a large head and a small body, one with long limbs, and one with a head and body that are about the same size and shape. You can do a lot of interesting things, even if they don't have the proportions of real humans or animals.



Snappy and adult-like ←————→ Cute and child-like

Various Color Schemes

Especially in the case of animals, the head, torso, and limbs may often be the same color. You can make it look like your amigurumi are wearing clothes or change its appearance, not only by crocheting separate clothing items, but also by changing the yarn color in certain areas.



Q&A: Original Amigurumi Design



If I want to make an original design, what should I start with?

A.

First, decide on what colors and kind of yarn to use. There are many different materials, textures, and colors for yarn, so start by buying your favorite yarn at a handicraft store. It is important to look and touch the yarn before selecting it.



Until now, I have only used medium-weight yarn. Is there anything I need to watch out for when using thin or thick yarns?

A.

Thin yarns are not suitable for beginners, but they show details well. Thick yarns tend to have a rough feel, so choose the one that best suits your needs. With any weight of yarn, be sure to use the correct size of crochet hook (see crochet hook sizes (pages 16–17)).



I don't know when to increase or decrease the number of stitches when crocheting a three-dimensional object.

A.

Even if items have the same degree of increases or decreases, the resulting shape can change depending on their arrangement, so just crochet and see what happens. The fastest way is to try crocheting from a number of crochet diagrams until you've mastered shaping.



I would like to change the crocheted fabric. What methods are there?

A.

Try changing the color and combining various stitch patterns (see Swatch Collection, pages 101–112). Even if you do not change the stitch pattern, you can create completely different results by combining yarns of different weights and colors.



Are there any precautions to take when making zakka that will dangle, such as mobile phone straps?



Do you have any tips to make the finishing look beautiful?

A.

First of all, it is important to align the stitches when seaming. Insert stuffing tightly and pay attention to the proportions and balance when assembling. When seaming, pin pieces together and take care with each stitch. If you think the stitches aren't neat, you can unravel them and start over. One of the nice things about amigurumi is that it's easy to start over.

A.

In the case of zakka, not limited to just hanging items, sew seams firmly. When attaching an O-ring in order to attach the metal findings of the strap directly to the amigurumi, pick up two or more stitches and stitch them firmly (see page 184 for attaching the metal findings).

Q&A: Original Amigurumi Design (cont'd)



Do you have any tips for choosing a color palette?

A.

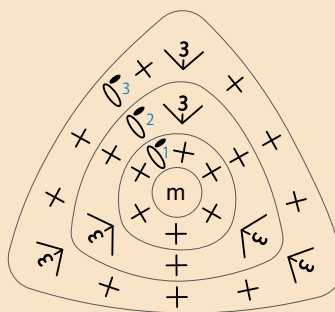
For those who are not confident in color matching, it is recommended to choose a color from within one product line from the same manufacturer. If it is within the same product line, the color profile is easy to match. Once you get used to it, try matching different manufacturers and products little by little.



I want to make a polygon, how should I crochet it?

A.

In crochet, increasing results in an angle. For this reason, if you continue to increase the number of stitches at the same position on each round, the increase location becomes a corner. The number of sides your polygon will have is equal to the number of increase locations. In the case of a triangle, the crochet diagram is as follows:



AN
AMIGURUMI
GALLERY

—
4



The stitch pattern expresses the fleece of a fluffy sheep's body. The plump little ears are a sweet feature.

※ Samples for illustration purposes only.



This imperturbable figure is an elite sumo wrestler. Note the fine details on the ceremonial mawashi belt done in embroidery and beads!



A fun pose that creates a sense of animation. Although it has a big head, this toy is made with exquisite balance so that it can stand on its own.



Crocheted with fun fur yarn to create a soft, fluffy look. The orange carrot is a nice finishing touch!

This realistically crocheted frog was made by studying how to increase or decrease ovals and the joints of limbs.



Chapter 7

Let's Try It!

Three projects for beginner to intermediate crocheters that mainly use basic crochet techniques. For detailed explanations on how to crochet and assemble amigurumi, go back to chapters 1–5.

LESSON 1

Bear Cub Pouch

This bear cub with ears and nose attached to a round crocheted face is decorated with googly eyes and embroidery. The round shape is just right for a pouch. This project is suitable for beginners because it requires only basic crochet techniques.



Materials

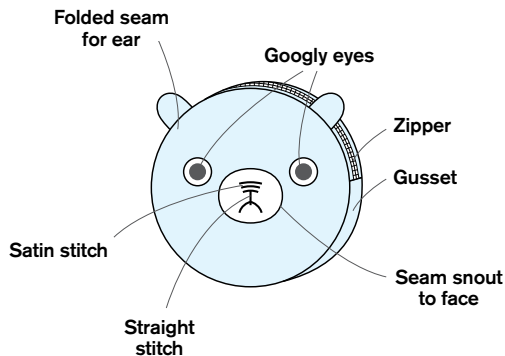
- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (light blue)
- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (white)
- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (black)
- Zipper
- Lining fabric
- Googly eyes

Tools

- US E (3.5mm) crochet hook
- Tapestry needle
- Sewing needle and thread
- Scissors
- Sewing pins
- Glue

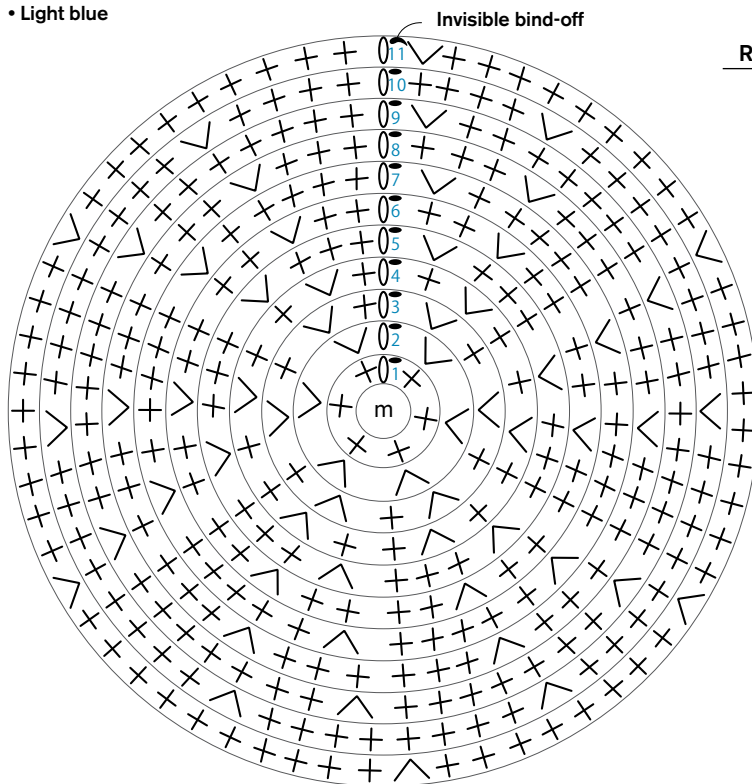
Instructions

- 1 Crochet each piece following the diagrams.
- 2 Seam body pieces to gusset.
- 3 Seam snout piece to face.
- 4 Embroider nose.
- 5 Attach googly eyes with glue.
- 6 Make lining same size as pouch; insert lining.
- 7 Insert zipper.
- 8 Seam ears to pouch.



Body of pouch (make 2)

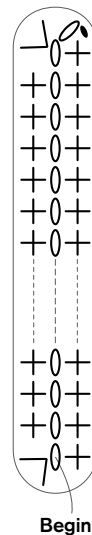
• Light blue



Gusset (make 1)

• Light blue

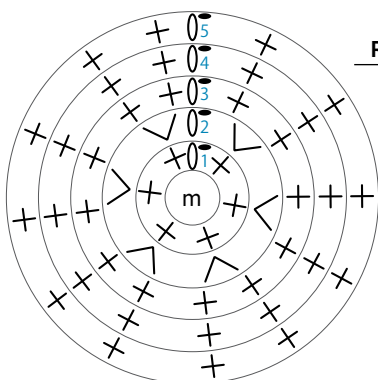
Round	St count
11	66 (+6 sts)
10	60 (+6 sts)
9	54 (+6 sts)
8	48 (+6 sts)
7	42 (+6 sts)
6	36 (+6 sts)
5	30 (+6 sts)
4	24 (+6 sts)
3	18 (+6 sts)
2	12 (+6 sts)
1	6



※ ch30 for foundation chain

Ear (make 2)

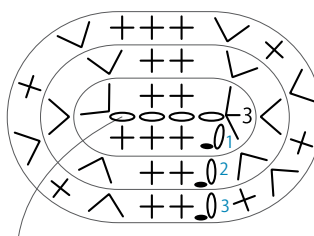
• Light blue



Round	St count
5	12
4	12
3	12
2	12 (+6 sts)
1	6

Snout (make 1)

• White



Begin

※ ch4 for foundation chain

Round	St count
3	22 (+6 sts)
2	16 (+6 sts)
1	10

LESSON 1

Bear Cub Pouch

► Crochet body of pouch



1 Work magic circle (page 29) to begin, then crochet 1 round.



2 Work in the round, increasing as indicated in diagram. Work sts over yarn tail. Cut yarn tail after a few sts are worked.



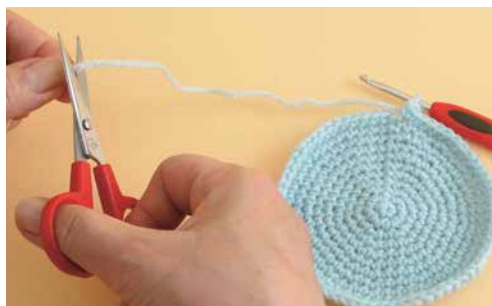
3 Round 2 completed. Since the yarn tail has been dealt with, the back side is also neat.



4 Continue working in the round, increasing as indicated in diagram. Photo shows round 6 completed.



5 Round 11 (final round) completed; 66 sts.



6 Cut yarn, leaving 8" (20 cm) yarn tail.



7 Pull loop as shown, then pull yarn tail through loop.



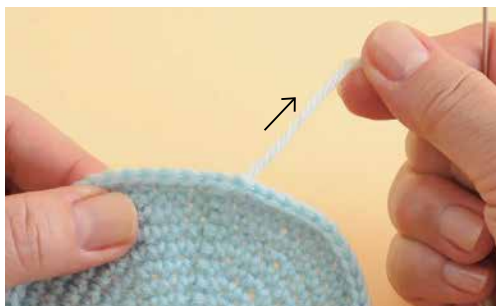
8 Thread yarn tail through tapestry needle.



9 Work invisible bind-off (page 142). Insert needle through top loops of first st of last round.



10 Insert needle through last st.



11 Pull yarn until st you're creating is the same size as the other top loops.



12 Weave in end on wrong side (page 151).

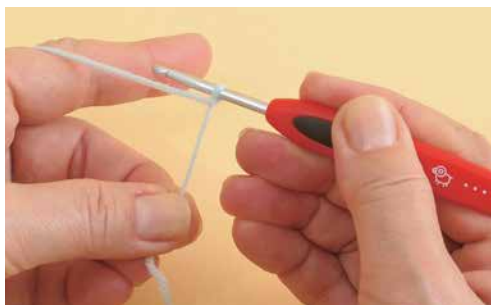
LESSON 1

Bear Cub Pouch



13 Following steps 1–12, make 1 more of the same piece.

► Crochet gusset



14 Start gusset as follows: make slipknot (page 34), leaving 16" (40 cm) yarn tail.



15 Ch30 for foundation chain.



16 Ch1 for turning post.



17 Work first row into bottom loops of chain, then follow diagram for remaining rows.



18 When complete, work slip stitch bind-off (page 145) and leave 16" (40 cm) yarn tail.

► **Seam gusset**



19 Thread yarn tail on one end of gusset through tapestry needle.



20 Seam gusset to one of the pouch pieces. On main piece, insert needle through back loops only.



21 On gusset piece, also insert needle through back loops only.



22 To achieve a firm edge, seam each crochet st twice.



23 Seam final st twice as well.



24 Weave in end on wrong side (page 151).

LESSON 1

Bear Cub Pouch



25 Thread the other yarn tail through tapestry needle.



26 Pass needle through end of gusset on wrong side as shown so that thread will be on the right side for seaming.



27 Seam other side of gusset to second main piece as in steps 20–24.



28 Gusset inserted between 2 main pieces.

► Insert zipper



29 Insert zipper (page 181). Align end of zipper with end of crocheted fabric and pin securely in place close to zipper.



30 After pinning entire length of gusset, insert needle through back loop to begin seaming.



31 Gradually remove pins as you sew gusset seam.



32 One gusset side seamed to zipper.



33 Open zipper, then seam second gusset side in the same way.



34 When finished seaming, knot thread on wrong side where it won't be visible. Zipper insertion completed.

► Attach face



35 Crochet ears and snout. Leave 12" (30 cm) yarn tail on each.



36 Decide where to put the and pin in place. Thread yarn tail through tapestry needle.

LESSON 1

Bear Cub Pouch



37 Insert needle through st on face piece. Be careful to choose a st just below the edge of the snout.



38 Insert needle through both top loops of st on snout edge; seam (page 122).



39 Snout seamed to face.



40 Thread needle with black yarn and tie thread knot at one end. Bring yarn from back to front at nose starting position.



41 After embroidering a V shape with straight stitch (page 155), insert needle back out through starting position.



42 Embroider with satin stitch (page 161) to fill the triangle.



43 Satin stitch triangle completed.



44 Embroider line down from nose using straight st. Bring yarn out at edge of mouth.



45 Pass needle under line coming down from nose, then insert at other edge of mouth.



46 Nose and mouth embroidered.



47 Place googly eyes on face to determine best position.



48 Once the position is decided, attach eyes with glue.

LESSON 1

Bear Cub Pouch

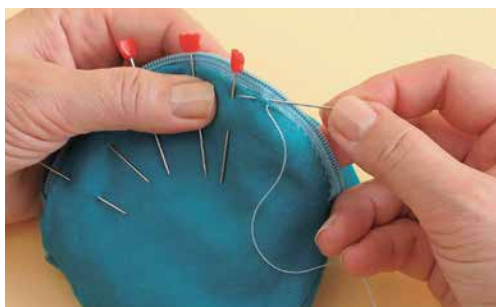


49 Eyes attached.

► Insert lining



50 Make a lining the same size as the main piece and gusset. Turn crocheted pouch inside-out.



51 Insert pouch into lining. While folding seam allowance inward, pin lining in place. Seam to pouch with whipstitch.

► Attach ears



53 Determine position of ears and pin in place.



54 Attach ears with folded seam (page 120). First, insert needle through top loops on face piece and front side of ear.



55 Front side of one ear seamed.



56 Seam back side in same manner.



57 One ear completed. Seam other ear in same manner.



58 Pouch completed.

LESSON 2

Mouse

After crocheting the six body parts—head, torso, ears, arms, legs, and tail—sew each part together to finish. It's easy because you only need to crochet in two colors. This project is packed with basic amigurumi techniques.



Materials

- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (white)
- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (dark green)
- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (black)
- Eye parts (solid eyes)
- Stuffing
- Wire

Tools

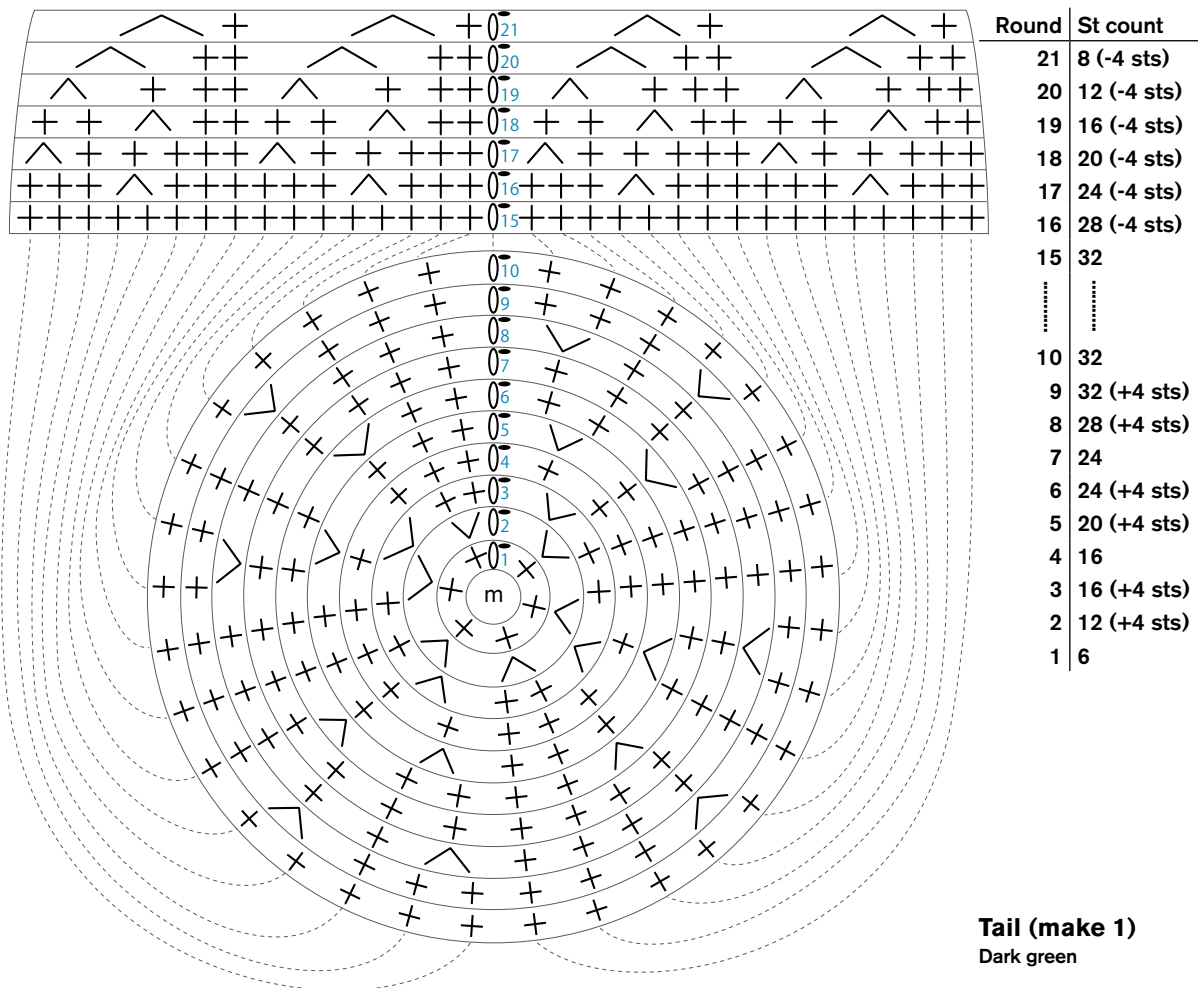
- US B or C (2.5mm) crochet hook
- Tapestry needle
- Scissors
- Glue
- Sewing pins
- Pliers
- Masking tape

Instructions

- ① Crochet each piece following the diagrams.
- ② Insert stuffing into head; cinch opening shut.
- ③ Insert wire & stuffing into arms & legs. Seam to body.
- ④ Finish wire ends neatly; insert stuffing into body.
- ⑤ Seam head to body.
- ⑥ Seam ears to head with folded seam.
- ⑦ Seam tail to lower back body.
- ⑧ Embroider nose and mouth.
- ⑨ Fasten eyes to head with glue.

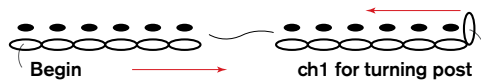
Head (make 1)

White



Tail (make 1)

Dark green

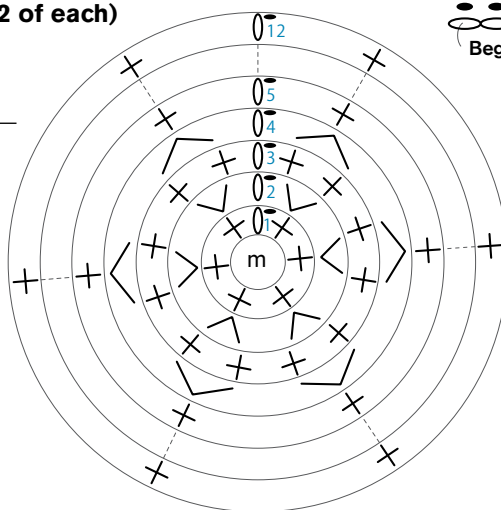


※ ch30 for foundation chain

Arm/leg (make 2 of each)

Arm: white
Leg: dark green

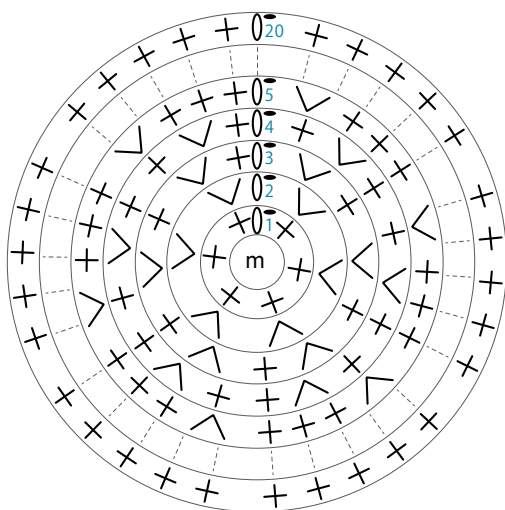
Round	St count
12	6
11	6
10	6
9	6
8	6
7	6
6	6
5	6
4	6 (-6 sts)
3	12
2	12 (+6 sts)
1	6



Use same diagram for arms & legs.

Body (make 1)

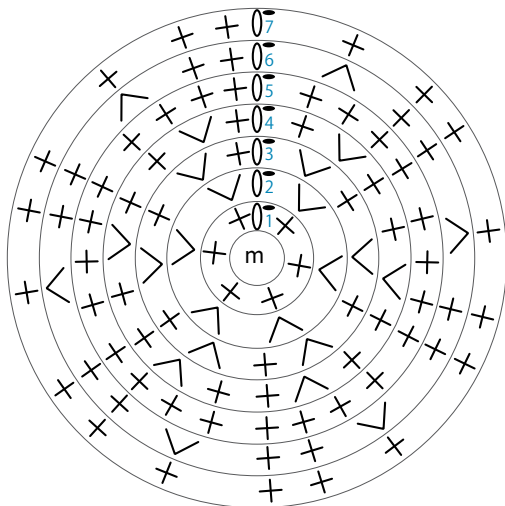
White, dark green



Round	St count	Color
20	30	White
9	30	
8	30	Dark green
5	30 (+6 sts)	
4	24 (+6 sts)	Dark green
3	18 (+6 sts)	
2	12 (+6 sts)	
1	6	

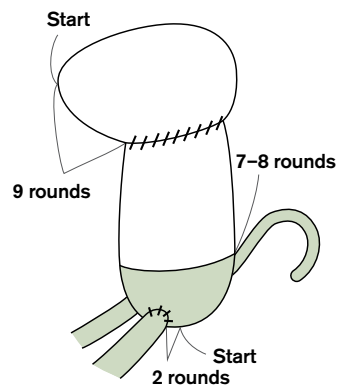
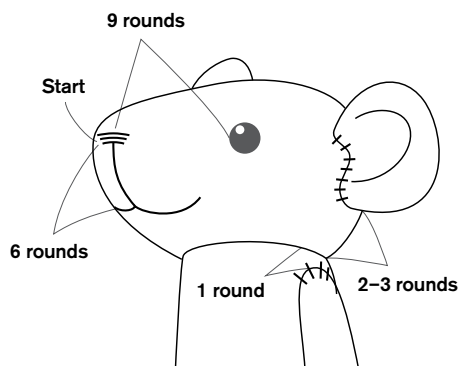
Ear (make 2)

White, dark green



Round	St count
8	18
7	18 (-6 sts)
6	24
5	24
4	24 (+6 sts)
3	18 (+6 sts)
2	12 (+6 sts)
1	6

Fold ears to create dent in the middle;
seam to head with folded seam.



LESSON 2

Mouse

► Crochet the head



1 Make magic circle (page 29) to begin, then crochet 1 round.



2 Work through round 9 according to diagram, increasing as indicated.



3 Work rounds 10–15 without increasing.



4 Continue until last round, decreasing as indicated. Bind off with standard bind-off method (page 144).

► Crochet the torso



5 With dark green yarn, make magic circle (page 29), then crochet through round 8 according to diagram.



6 Change to white yarn starting with round 9 (page 74).

LESSON 2

Mouse



7 YO with white yarn and pull up a loop.



8 Slip first st (page 50); color change completed. Crochet round 9.



9 1 round white sts completed. Continue in white for remainder of torso.

► Crochet arms and legs



10 Make magic circle (page 29) with green yarn to begin leg, then crochet 1 round.



11 Crochet round 2 according to diagram, increasing as indicated.



12 Crochet round 3 according to diagram, increasing as indicated.



13 Crochet round 4, decreasing as indicated.



14 Work rounds 5–12 even (no increases or decrease). After last round, bind off with standard bind-off method (page 144).



15 Work arms in same way with white yarn. Leave long yarn tails.

► Crochet the tail



16 With green yarn, make slipknot to begin.



17 Ch30 (page 35).



18 Ch1 for turning post.

LESSON 2

Mouse



19 Insert hook into bottom loop of chain st; YO.



20 Pull yarn through (slip st, page 50).

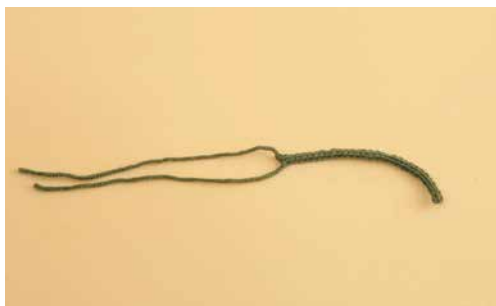


21 Continue across chain.



22 After crocheting 30 sts, work slip stitch bind-off.

► Insert stuffing



23 Leave 6" (15 cm) yarn tail.



24 Insert stuffing into head (page 131).



25 Pack stuffing firmly.



26 Thread yarn tail onto tapestry needle; insert needle from inside to outside as shown.



27 Insert needle from outside to inside into each st in final round to cinch shut (page 132).



28 Cinch opening shut tightly.

► Attach arms and legs



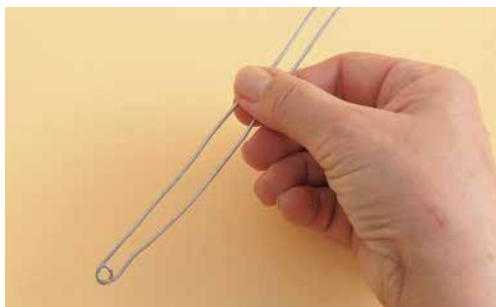
29 Weave yarn tail into stuffing (page 149). Head completed.



30 Prepare two arms, two legs, torso, and four wires.

LESSON 2

Mouse



31 Roll wire once at center to form a loop, then fold in half (page 136).



32 Insert ring end of wire into one arm.



33 Insert stuffing through gap.



34 With the long yarn tail (or a new strand threaded on a tapestry needle and knotted), insert needle into tip of the arm and through the wire loop 2–3 times to secure in place. Knot securely.



35 Do the same for all four arm and leg parts.



36 Thread wire between sts in crocheted fabric where you want to attach arm.



37 Thread bind-off yarn tail through tapestry needle; seam arm to torso.



38 Arms and legs attached.

► Attach the head



39 Roll all wire ends together and wrap with tape so that tips do not poke out of the fabric.



40 Insert stuffing into body so that it is as firm as the head.



41 Place head on torso and fasten in place with pins.



42 Seam head to torso using yarn tail(s) remaining after seaming other body part(s) to torso.

LESSON 2

Mouse



43 Head attached. Note that the facial expression changes depending on the angle of the head.

► Attach ears



44 Crochet ear pieces according to diagram. Leave a long yarn tail.



45 Fold each ear with a dent in the center.



46 Decide where to place each ear; fasten in place with pins.



47 Thread ear yarn tail through tapestry needle; seam to back of head with folded seam (page 120).



48 Turn to front and seam front of ear in same way.



49 Ears attached.

► Attach tail



50 Pass yarn through needle and seam end of tail to buttock area from underneath.



51 After seaming 2 stitches, seam the other side in the same way.



52 Tail attached. By seaming over two sts, the tail stands upright.

► Embroider the nose



53 Embroider the nose on the tip of the face. First, embroider V shape with black yarn.



54 Fill V shape with satin stitch (page 161).

LESSON 2

Mouse



55 Embroider line beneath nose with straight stitch (page 155); bring needle out where corner of mouth will be.



56 Pass needle under line beneath nose, then insert needle at other side of mouth. Weave yarn tail through stuffing (page 149).

► Attach eyes



57 Insert eye pieces to determine best position.



58 Once position is decided, apply glue to posts of eyes and insert into head (page 164).



59 Mouse completed. With wires in its limbs, you can make it sit, stand, raise its hands, and bend its legs.



LESSON 3

Girl in Ruffled Skirt

In addition to basic crochet methods, you can make items such as this cute girl by incorporating detailed techniques to add features such as skirts, fingers, and hair. It's fun to make original designs with different hairstyles and colorful clothing.



Materials

- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (pale orange)
- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (yellow)
- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (light blue)
- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (brown)
- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (white)
- Medium-weight yarn such as DK (red)
- Comic eyes
- Stuffing

Tools

- US B or C (2.5mm) crochet hook
- Tapestry needle
- Scissors
- Glue
- Sewing pins

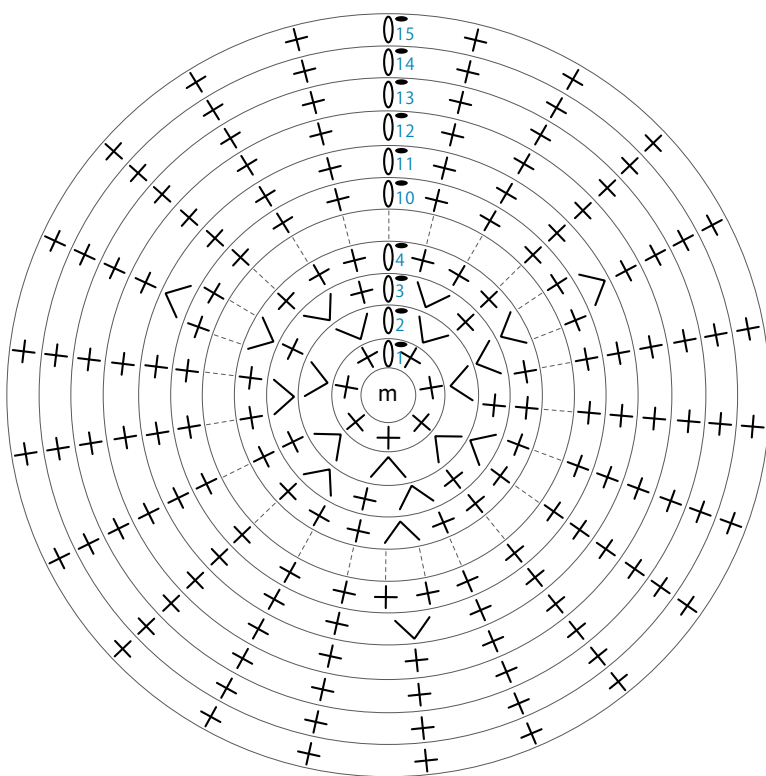
Instructions

- ① Crochet head & body following the diagrams; insert stuffing.
- ② Seam head to body.
- ③ Crochet arms & legs following the diagrams; insert stuffing.
- ④ Seam legs to body.
- ⑤ Crochet skirt onto surface of body.

- ⑥ Seam arms to body.
- ⑦ Fasten eyes to head using glue.
- ⑧ Embroider nose on face.
- ⑨ Seam ear to head with folded seam.
- ⑩ Make hair for top and back of head using fringe method; make hair for bangs area with embroidery method.

Body (make 1)

Yellow



Round	St count
15	21
14	21
13	21
12	21
11	21 (-3 sts)
10	24
9	24
8	24 (+3 sts)
7	21 (+7 sts)
6	21
5	24 (+3 sts)
4	21 (+7 sts)
3	14 (+7 sts)
2	7

Ear (make 2)

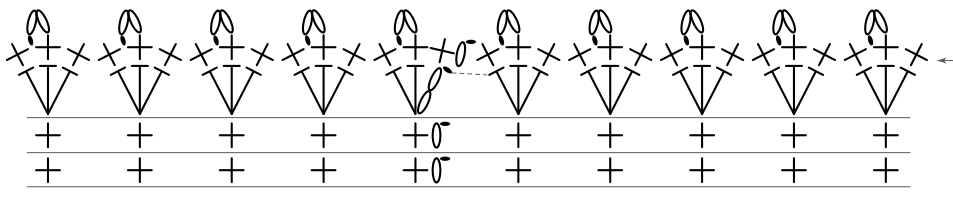
Pale orange



Skirt

Light blue

※ Work surface crochet between rounds 8 and 9 of body.

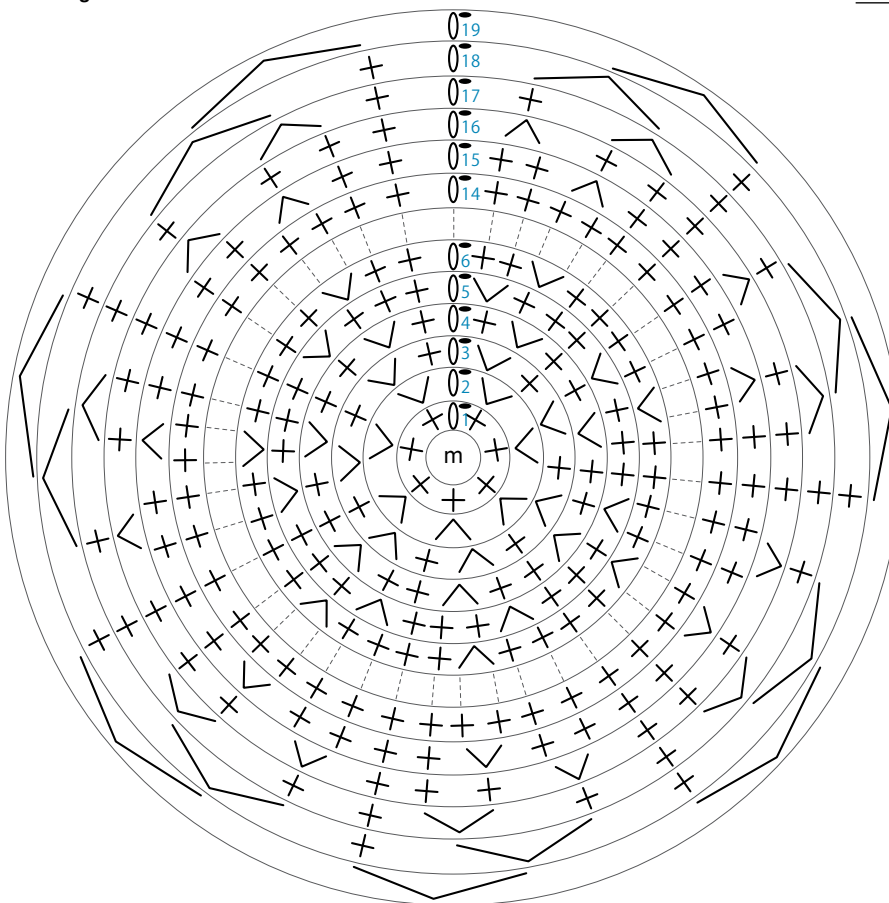


Round	St count
4	see diagram
3	72 (+48 sts)
2	24
1	24

On round 4, work *sc, ch2* into hdc of round 3 (a 3-st multiple).

Head (make 1)

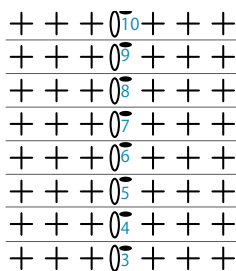
Pale orange



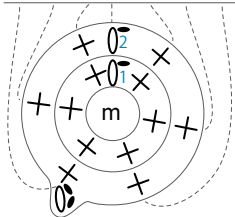
Round	St count
19	7 (-7 sts)
18	14 (-7 sts)
17	21 (-7 sts)
16	28 (-7 sts)
15	35 (-7 sts)
14	42
...	...
6	42 (+7 sts)
5	35 (+7 sts)
4	28 (+7 sts)
3	21 (+7 sts)
2	14 (+7 sts)
1	7

Arm (make 2)

Pale orange and yellow

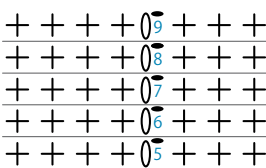


Round	St count	Color
10	6	Yellow
...	...	...
4	6	Pale orange
3	6	
2	6	
1	6	

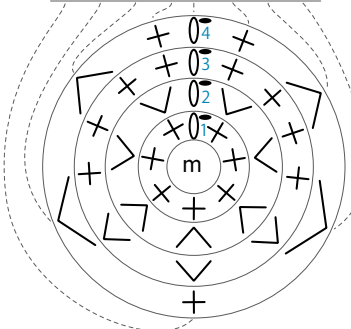


Leg (make 2)

Pale orange, white and red



Round	St count	Color
9	7	Pale orange
8	7	
7	7	
6	7	
5	7	White
4	7 (-4 sts)	
3	11 (-3 sts)	
2	14 (+7 sts)	Red
1	7	



LESSON 3

Girl in Ruffled Skirt

► Crochet the head



1 Crochet head according to diagram, increasing and decreasing as indicated.



2 After crocheting roughly half of head, remove hook and pull loop until large.



3 Insert stuffing (page 131).



4 Finish crocheting according to diagram.



5 Cinch opening shut (page 132).



6 Weave yarn tail through stuffing (page 149).



7 Head completed.

► Crochet the body



8 Crochet body according to diagram. Bind off with slip stitch bind-off method (page 145).

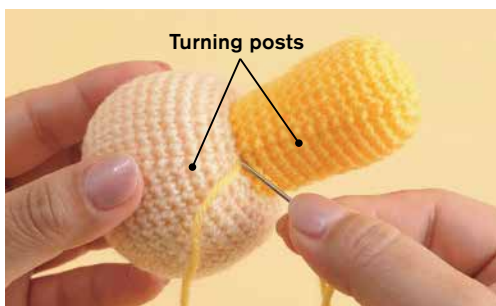
► Seam head to torso



9 Insert stuffing.



10 Thread yarn tail from step 8 through tapestry needle; seam body to head (page 118).



11 Be sure to align turning posts of head and body when seaming.



12 Head seamed to body.

LESSON 3

Girl in Ruffled Skirt

► Crochet arms and legs



13 Crochet from tip of hand upward according to diagram. Round 1 completed.



14 Work picot (page 60) as indicated in diagram to create a thumb.



15 When round 3 is complete and hand is finished, change to yellow yarn and crochet arm.



16 Arm completed.

► Attach legs



17 Crochet legs according to diagram in the same way. 2 arms and 2 legs completed.



18 Thread leg yarn tail through tapestry needle; seam leg using folded seam (page 120) on underside and front of body.



19 Both legs attached.

► Crochet the skirt



20 Join light blue yarn to body between 8th and 9th rounds. Insert hook horizontally (page 129) and work sc.



21 Work 1 round of sc around body.



22 Work 3-stitch ruffle pattern (page 94). First sc 2.



23 After ch2, insert hook into top loops; slip st and work picot (page 60). Photo shows 1 completed ruffle stitch.



24 After working one round of ruffle edging, cut yarn, leaving 4" (10 cm) tail; pass it through tapestry needle and work invisible bind-off (page 142).

LESSON 3

Girl in Ruffled Skirt



25 Ruffled skirt completed.

► Attach arms



26 Attach arms with folded seam (page 120). Double-check the front and back of body before attaching arms.

► Attach eyes and nose



27 After testing eye placement, attach eyes with glue (page 164).



28 Embroider nose using bullion stitch (page 163). Bring needle out at center of face and hold horizontally; wind yarn around needle 5 times.



29 While holding wrapped yarn, remove tapestry needle, then insert needle into 2nd st.



30 Face completed.

► **Attach ears**



31 Crochet ear pieces according to diagram. Thread yarn tail onto tapestry needle; seam ears to head.

► **Attach hair**



32 For hair, make fringe (page 172) from top to back of head.



33 Trim ends of fringe to desired hairstyle.



34 Stitch bangs with straight stitch (page 155). Fill forehead with straight stitch from above so that the “hairline” of the fringe is not visible.



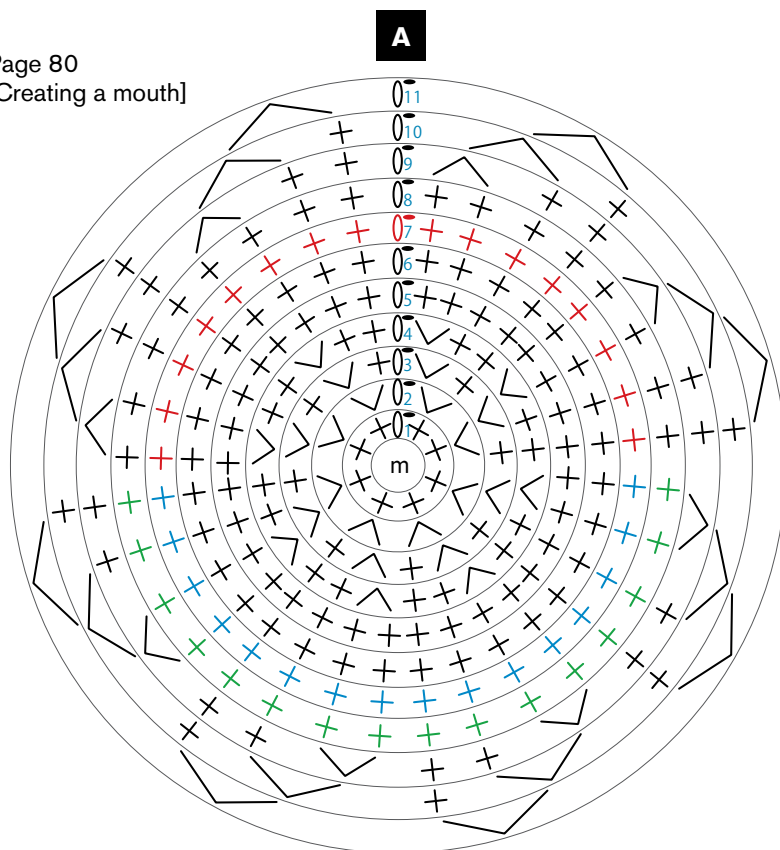
35 Finally, block hair with steam iron to straighten the hair.



36 Completed. Since the legs are attached to the front side, she can sit down.

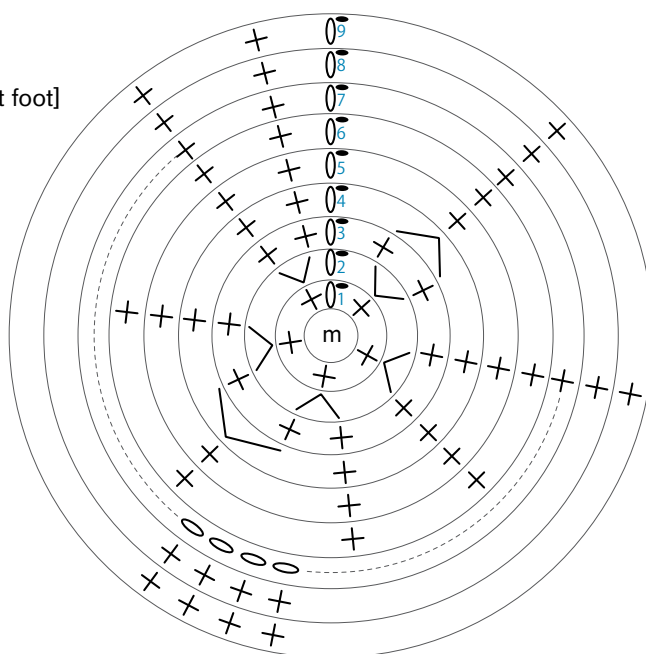
Diagrams for parts in this book

Page 80
[Creating a mouth]

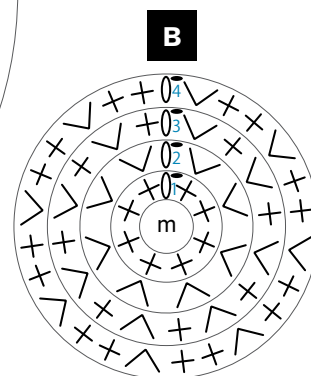


+ A&B + A only + B only

Page 88
[Afterthought foot]



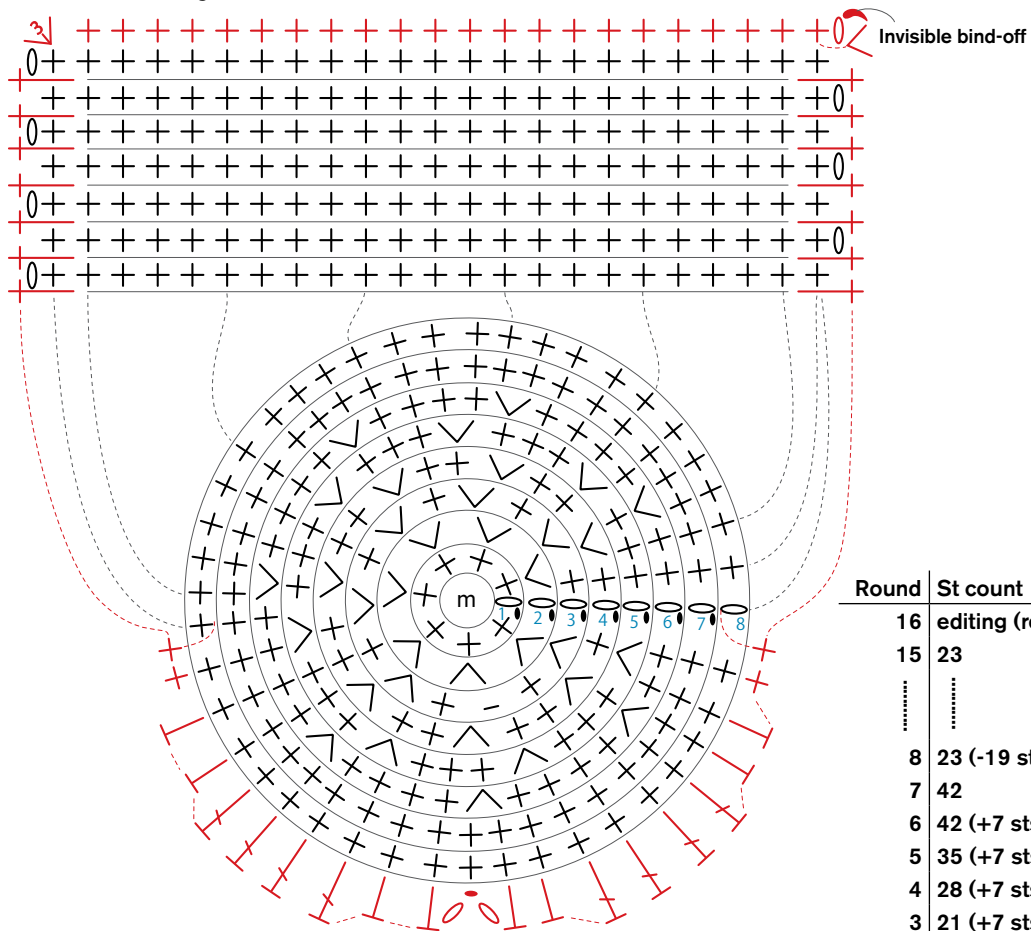
Round	St count
11	8 (-8 sts)
10	16 (-8 sts)
9	24 (-8 sts)
8	32
7	32
6	32
5	32
4	32 (+8 sts)
3	24 (+8 sts)
2	16 (+8 sts)
1	8



Round	St count
4	32 (+8 sts)
3	24 (+8 sts)
2	16 (+8 sts)
1	8

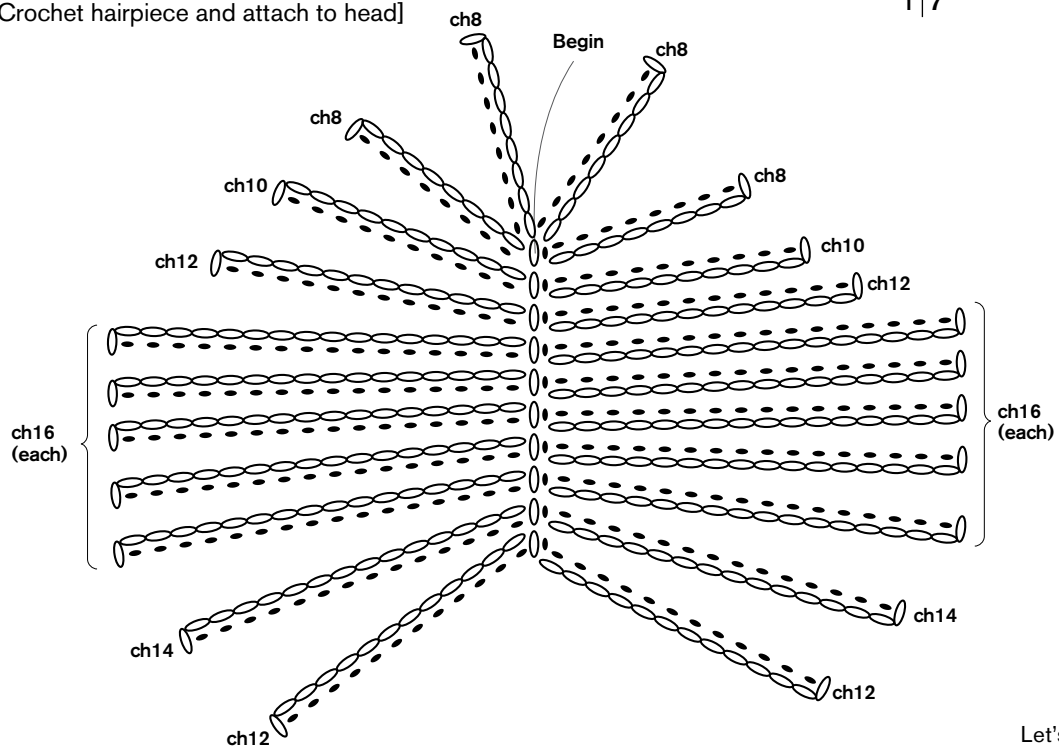
Round	St count
10	8
9	8
8	8
7	8 (create hole)
6	8
5	8
4	8 (-2 sts)
3	10
2	10 (+5 sts)
1	5

[Make "Helmet" wig & attach to head]

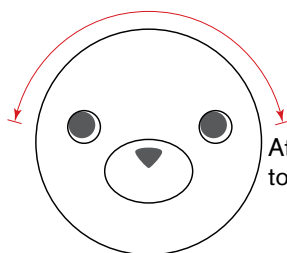
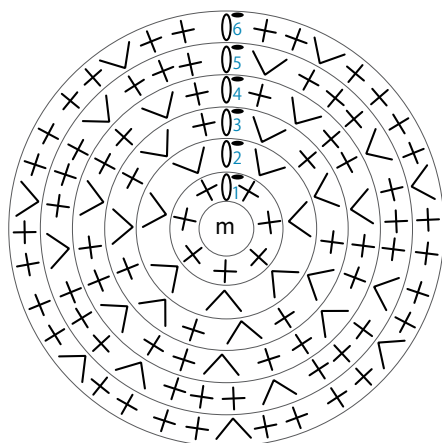


Round	St count
16	editing (red)
15	23
...	...
8	23 (-19 sts)
7	42
6	42 (+7 sts)
5	35 (+7 sts)
4	28 (+7 sts)
3	21 (+7 sts)
2	14 (+7 sts)
1	7

[Crochet hairpiece and attach to head]

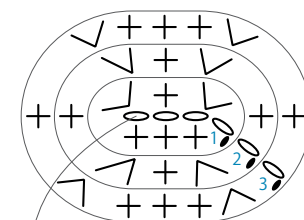


Body (make 2), Cotton, 3.5mm hook
Beige



Attach purse frame
to these 22 sts.

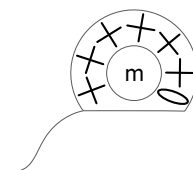
Nose (make 1)
White



ch3 to being

Round	St count
3	16 (+4 sts)
2	12 (+4 sts)
1	8

Ear (make 2)
Light purple



Sc 6 into magic circle. End
round without joining to
complete round as usual.



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THE RESOURCES SECTION

If you're new to crochet, here are some websites (some with shops) you may want to explore. These are just some of the many sites made available to the needle crafting community through the work of passionate individuals and groups. Many include blogs, free tutorials, free patterns and galleries full of ideas. Some focus primarily on amigurumi. Others focus on helping crafters new to crochet and providing new inspiration to seasoned crocheters. And many more sites are out there for you to explore.

Ami Amour Cute Crochet Creatures

(www.amiamour.com) Includes free patterns.

Amigurumi Food

(www.amigurumifood.com) Free patterns and video tutorials. Focuses primarily on veggies, fruits and sweets, but also features the occasional animal or plant.

Amigurumi To Go

(www.amigurumitogo.com) Includes free patterns and video tutorials.

Amigurumi Today

(www.amigurumi.today) Includes free patterns plus a section on tips and tricks.

Amy's Crochet Cave

(www.amyscrochetcave.com) A blog that includes free amigurimi patterns.

BHooked

(www.bookedcrochet.com) Includes video tutorials, patterns (free and for purchase) and podcast links.

Craftsy

(www.craftsy.com) An online resource for needleworkers.

CraftyBits.co

(www.craftbits.com) Ideas and patterns for sewists, knitters and crocheters.

Crochet Concupiscence

(www.crochetconcupiscence.com) A resource for learners. Includes links to free patterns.

Furls Crochet

(www.furlscrochet.com) Vendor of yarns, hooks and needles. Also offers free patterns, plus video tutorials.

Heart & Sew

(heartandsew.co.uk) A blog that includes free patterns.

Jenny and Teddy

(www.jennyandteddy.com) Includes video stitch tutorials and free patterns.

Keep Calm and Crochet On U.K

(www.keepcalmandcrochetonuk.com) Includes free patterns and tutorials.

Knitty

(www.knitty.com) An online resource that includes articles on crochet and yarn.

Lilliliis

(www.lilleliis.com) Includes free patterns and illustrated/video tutorials.

Lion Brand Yarn

(www.lionbrand.com) Vendor of yarns, hooks, needles and free patterns, plus video tutorials.

Little Muggles

(www.littlemuggles.com) An amigurimi blog that includes free patterns.

Mama in a Stitch

(www.mamainastitch.com) Includes free patterns and video/illustrated tutorials.

Ravelry

(www.ravelry.com) A comprehensive online resource for knitters, crocheters and fiber artists.

Supergurumi

(www.supergurumi.com) Patterns (both free and for purchase) plus some illustrated step-by-step stitch tutorials.

The Creative Crochet Corner

(www.creativecrochetcorner.com) Includes video tutorials, tips and techniques for all levels.

The Crochet Crowd

(www.thecrochetcrowd.com) Free patterns and video tutorials for crocheters and weavers.

Tiny Rabbit Hole

(blog.tinyrabbithole.com) A blog that includes free patterns.

We Crochet

(www.crochet.com)

An online vendor that includes a learning center with tips and tutorials.

Your local craft shops—both large and small—will carry a variety of yarns, hooks, and other tools and materials you'll need for making great toys. Here are a few of the many online vendors carrying either a wide range of supplies or some hard-to-find yarns you might like to try.

Fabulous Yarn

(www.fabulousyarn.com)

Hobby Lobby

(www.hobbylobby.com)

Joann

(www.joann.com)

LoveCrafts

(www.lovecrafts.com)

Paradise Fibers

(www.paradisefibers.com)

Michaels

(www.michaels.com)

Purl Soho

(www.purlsoho.com)

CA**Knitca**

(www.knitca.com.ca)

The Wool Queen

(www.thewoolqueen.ca)

The Yarn Guy

(www.theyarnguy.com)

True North Yarn Co.

(www.truenorthyarn.com)

Yarn Canada

(www.yarncanada.ca)

UK**Backstitch**

(www.backstitch.co.uk)

Deramores

(www.deramores.com)

Tangled Yarn

(www.tangled-yarn.co.uk)

The Wool Factory

(www.thewoolfactory.co.uk)

Wool Warehouse

(www.woolwarehouse.co.uk)

AUS**CraftOnline**

(www.craftonline.com.au)

I Wool Knit

(www.iwoolknit.com.au)

Skein Sisters

(www.skeinsisters.com.au)

The Aussie Knitting Company

(theaussieknittingco.com)

The Yarn Store

(www.theyarnstore.com.au)

NZ**Knit World**

(www.knitworld.co.nz)

Knitnstitch

(www.knitnstitch.co.nz)

SkeinZ Natural Yarn Store

(www.skeinZ.com)

Wild and Woolly Yarns

(www.wildandwoollyyarns.co.nz)

Woolworx

(www.woolworx.co.nz)

The Japan Amigurumi Association

The Japan Amigurumi Association was established in 2002 with the aim of fostering the craft and culture of amigurumi through nationwide events promoting exchanges between writers and enthusiasts and spreading the word about amigurumi overseas. Among its various other activities, the Association established an amigurumi certification course in 2018, and currently manages galleries for artists. Its online shop sells the Association's original crochet tools and notions as well as amigurumi kits.

Amigurumi Credits (alphabetical order)

Amigurumi Forest / Amimono Workshop K-Knit / BULL / happysmile / haru*maki / Hiroko Takeda / Hiroyuki Murata / hitoko hausu / House of Tanaka / Ichigo Choco / kerorin / kumaneko / Kyoko Tsuritani / lemo / Mamezooya Nyantar / Marumi / Maruniya / Meow-Meow Ururitto / Miyuki Ichikawa / qupi / shimami / Spoonland / SUNNY SUNDAY / utata*



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This authoritative guide gives you the information and techniques you need for any amigurumi project—fuzzy critters, rosy-cheeked dolls, adorable monsters, and so much more. Illustrated step-by-step lessons take you through the entire process, from choosing the best stitches, to assembly, to finishing up. Inspirational photos of what you can do with these techniques will fuel your own creativity.

This is a book you'll refer to again and again. Open it up, and get ready to crochet!

Founded in 2002, THE JAPAN AMIGURUMI ASSOCIATION is a community of enthusiasts sharing their designs and techniques with one another and the world. The association supports writers on amigurumi and holds workshops, exhibits and other events each year. Its activities and newsletters support other needleworking and toymaking events.



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