

Mauritius Dodo

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Introduction



[Mauritius](#) is an island in the Indian Ocean, off the coast of Madagascar. In its isolation, many species developed that would be found nowhere else in the world – most famously, the [Mauritius Dodo](#). Standing three feet high and unable to fly, how strange it must have looked to the sailors who discovered it! To Europeans it seemed stupid, a bird without the sense to run when humans came near and that laid its one, large egg on the ground without any precautions against predators.

Of course, the dodo was not stupid. There were simply no predators on the island to guard against before the arrival of humans – and while the extinction of the dodo is often laid at the feet of hunters, numerous references to the disgusting taste of dodo meat make it unlikely that the dodo was hunted to its infamous extinction. At least – it wasn't hunted down by humans, but by the creatures they brought with them. Rats, dogs, and pigs all contributed to the dodo's doom by hunting their chicks or eating their vulnerable eggs. Less than 100 years after its discovery, the dodo bird was extinct.

The dodo became famous as one of the earliest and most dramatic examples of extinction in recorded human history. Now you can bring the dodo back to life with a little bit of yarn and some stuffing – but remember, folks: extinction is forever.

Materials List

- MC: Red Heart Super Saver (100% acrylic, 278 yds/ 254 meters per 141 g/5 oz.), Grey Heather – about 30 yds

- CC1: Black – about 5 yds
- CC2: White – about 5 yds
- CC3: Carrot – about 5 yds
- US G/6 4.25mm crochet hook
- Yarn needle
- Small amount Fiberfill or other stuffing
- 2 black 11mm (7/16”) shank buttons
- Sewing needle and black thread (to attach buttons)
- Stitch marker, to keep track of rounds



Finished Size

4¼” tall x 5½” long x 3½” wide

Gauge

14 sc x 15 rows in sc = 4 inches (10cm)

Note: This pattern may be made in any gauge and yarn combination that produces firm, tight stitches. Using a significantly different yarn weight or hook size will produce a dodo of a different size than the one pictured.

Notes

Do not join rounds unless directed.

When assembling a stuffed animal made with small parts, sometimes it is helpful to leave long yarn ends on the pieces themselves and use those ends to sew pieces together. (That is the technique used here.) This is merely one possible method and, as always, your favorite method of assembly may be used.

To help keep track of rounds, place a stitch marker in the first stitch of the round. Move the marker up as your work progresses.

The Pattern

Body

With MC, ch 2.

Rnd 1: Work 6 sc in the second ch from the hook.

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

Rnd 3: *Sc in next st, work 2 sc in next st,* rep from * to * around. (18 sc)

Rnd 4: *Sc in each of next 2 sts, work 2 sc in next st,* rep from * to * around. (24 sc)

Rnds 5-7: Sc in each sc around.

Rnd 8: *Sc2tog over next 2 sts, sc in each of next 6 sts,* rep from * to * around. (21 sc)

Rnds 9-10: Sc in each sc around.

Rnd 11: *Sc2tog over next 2 sts, sc in each of next 5 sts,* rep from * to * around. (18 sc)

Rnd 12: *Sc2tog over next 2 sts, sc in each of next 4 sts,* rep from * to * around. (15 sc)

Rnd 13: *Sc2tog over next 2 sts, sc in each of next 3 sts,* rep from * to * around. (12 sc) Stuff body.

Rnd 14: *Sc2tog over next 2 sts,* rep from * to * around. (6 sc)

Fasten off, leaving a tail of yarn several inches long. Weave the yarn through the stitches of Round 14, pull tight to close. Weave in the yarn ends.

Head

For best results, stuff head as work progresses.

With MC, ch 2.

Rnd 1: Work 6 sc in the second ch from the hook.

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

Rnds 3-5: Sc in each sc around. (12 sc)

Rnd 6: *Sc in next st, sc2tog over next 2 sts,* rep from * to * around. (8 sc)

Rnds 7-9: Sc in each sc around. (8 sc)

Row 10: Sl st in next sc, ch 1, sc in each of next 5 sts, ch 1, turn. (5 sc) (Begin working flat instead of in the round.)

Row 11: Work 2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 3 sts, work 2 sc in next st, ch 1, turn. (7 sc)

Row 12: Sc in next st, work 2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 3 sts, work 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, ch 1, turn. (9 sc)

Row 13: Sc2tog over next 2 sts, sc in each of next 5 sts, sc2tog over next 2 sts, ch 1, turn. (7 sc)

Row 14: Sc in first st, *sc2tog over next 2 sts, sc in next st,* rep from * to * 1 more time, ch 1, turn. (5 sc)

Row 15: Sc2tog over next 2 sts, sc in next st, sc2tog over next 2 sts. (3 sc)

Fasten off, leaving a tail of yarn several inches long to use during assembly.

Wings (make 2)

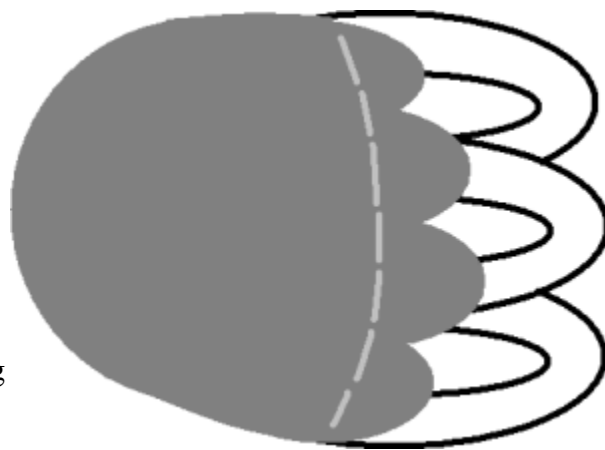
With MC, ch 2.

Row 1: Work 2 sc in the second ch from the hook, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, work 2 sc in each st across, turn. (4 sc)

Row 3: Ch 3, sl st in first sc, *ch 3, sl st in next sc,* rep from * to * across.

Fasten off, leaving a tail of yarn several inches long to use during assembly.



Beak

With CC1, ch 2.

Row 1: Work 3 sc in the second ch from the hook, turn. (3 sc)

Row 2: Ch 1, work 2 sc in each st across, turn. (6 sc)

Row 3: Ch 1, sl st in next st, sc in next st, work 2 hdc in each of next 2 sts, sc in next st, sl st in next st, turn. (8 sts)

Row 4: Ch 1, sl st in each of next 2 sts, sc in next st, work 2 hdc in each of next 2 sts, sc in next st, sl st in each of next 2 sts, turn. (10 sts)

Row 5: Ch 1, sl st in first st. sc2tog over next 2 sts, [hdc2tog over next 2 sts] 2 times, sc2tog over next 2 sts, sl st in next st, turn. (6 sts)

Row 6-8: With CC2, ch 1, sc in each st across, turn. (6 sc)

Row 9: Ch 1, work 2 sc in each st across, turn. (12 sc)

Row 10: Ch 1, *sl st in next st, work 3 dc in next st, sl st in next st,* sc in each of next 6 sts, rep from * to * 1 more time. (16 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a tail of yarn several inches long to use during assembly.

Tail

With CC2, ch 4.

Row 1: Sl st in second ch from hook, ch 10, sl st in same st, *sl st in next st, ch 10, sl st in same st,* rep from * to * 1 more time.

Fasten off, leaving a tail of yarn several inches long to use during assembly.



Wing feathers (make 2)

With CC2, ch 4.

Row 1: Sl st in second ch from hook, ch 7, sl st in same st, *sl st in next st, ch 7, sl st in same st,* rep from * to * 1 more time.

Fasten off, weave in the yarn ends.

Feet (make 2)

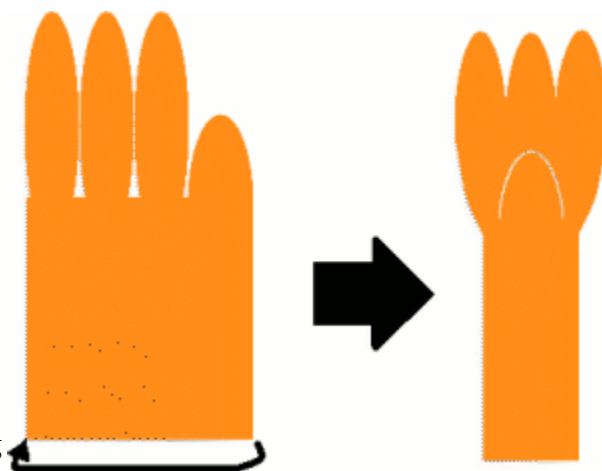
With CC3, ch 5.

Row 1: Starting in the second ch from hook, sc in each st across, turn. (4 sc)

Rows 2-4: Ch 1, sc in each st across, turn.

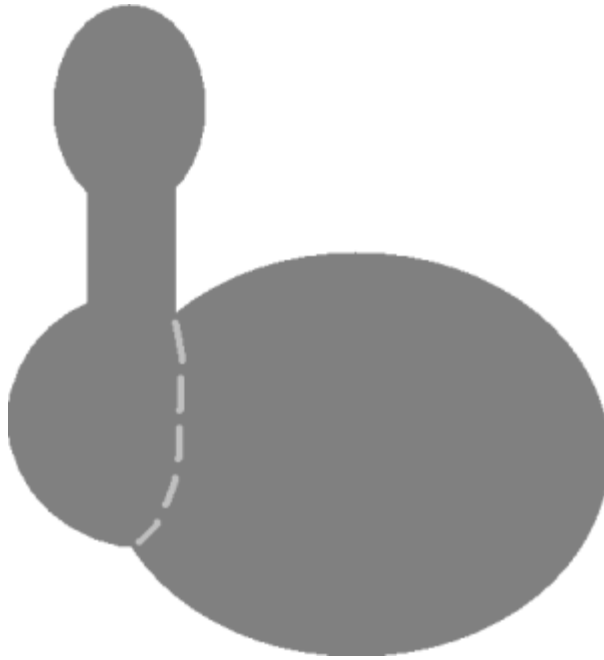
Row 5: Ch 1, sl st in first sc, ch 4, sl st in same sc, *sl st in next sc, ch 4, sl st in second, third, and fourth chain from the hook, sl st in same sc,* rep from * to * 2 more times.

Fasten off, leaving a tail of yarn several inches long to use during assembly.

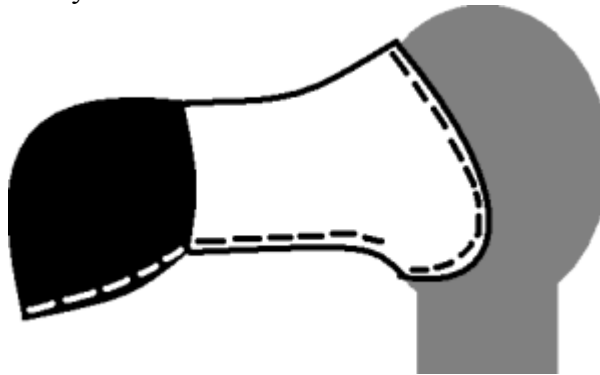


Finishing Instructions

1. Using yarn left at Head, sew Head section to Body (with Round 1 of the Body being the tail section, and Round 14 facing the head).



2. Using yarn attached to Wing, Sew Wing Feathers to Wings; attach Wings to Body.
3. Using yarn attached to Tail, sew Tail to Body.
4. Using attached yarn, fold Feet in half, sew closed along edges.
5. Sew Feet to Body.
6. Lightly stuff Beak; sew closed along edges using matching yarn (leaving end open).
7. Sew Beak to Head using attached yarn.



8. Using needle and thread, sew buttons to Beak as eyes. (Note: attaching these buttons for eyes renders this stuffed animal unsuitable for children under age 3. If you wish to make it child-safe, painted, embroidered, or safety eyes may be substituted.)

All photos and diagrams by Melissa Mall.