CROCHET CACTUS: A 10 INCH BEAUTIFUL PLUSHIE IN A POT

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

About 10 inches (25 cm) tall, using super bulky (#6) Bernat Blanket yarn and a 9.0 mm hook. Sizes are approximate and will vary a little with your yarn and tension.

SKILL LEVEL

Easy. You need a magic ring, chain, single crochet, double crochet, slip stitch, and back loop only and front loop only stitches. The body has no increases or decreases to count: it is a flat rectangle of 30 rows, each 14 stitches.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. It is described as a quick project, and with chunky yarn and only single crochet rows, most crocheters finish it in one relaxed afternoon or evening. That time is an estimate, not a source fact.

MATERIALS

- Super bulky (#6) yarn, Bernat Blanket in green, 36 yards (33 m), 1.68 oz: cactus body
- Super bulky (#6) yarn, Bernat Blanket in brown, 36 yards (33 m), 1.68 oz: pot and top hat
- Super bulky (#6) yarn, Bernat Blanket in pink, 3 yards (2.7 m), 0.14 oz: flower
- 9.0 mm crochet hook (size M/N)
- 18 mm safety eyes, 1 pair
- Black acrylic yarn or blanket yarn, 2 to 3 feet: face
- Polyester stuffing (polyfil), a small amount
- Yarn needle
- Stitch markers
- Scissors

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

MC: magic circle (magic ring). ch: chain. sc: single crochet. dc: double crochet. inc: increase (2 sc in the same stitch). sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es). Rnd: round. BLO: back loop only. FLO: front loop only. FO: fasten off.

NOTES

Work the pot in continuous rounds. Do not join rounds and do not turn, unless the pattern says so. Place a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up as you finish the round. The number in brackets at the end of each round is the stitch count you should have, so count your stitches at the end of every increase round. The cactus body is worked in rows, not rounds: chain 1 and turn at the end of each row. This pattern uses US crochet terms throughout. If you are used to UK terms, remember that a US single crochet is a UK double crochet and a US double crochet is a UK treble crochet, so do not convert the stitches in this pattern. Gauge is not vital for a toy, but it affects the finished size and how much yarn you need: with the Bernat Blanket yarn and a 9.0 mm hook, 4 single crochet stitches and 4 rows make a 2 inch (5 cm) square.

POT

Work with brown yarn and the 9.0 mm hook. Work in continuous rounds.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MC (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

Rnd 3: [sc, inc] x 6 (18)

Rnd 4: [2 sc, inc] x 6 (24)

Rnd 5: [3 sc, inc] x 6 (30)

Rnd 6: working in BLO, sc in each st around (30). This round makes the neat corner where the flat base meets the straight wall of the pot.

Rnd 7-10: sc in each st around (30), 4 rounds

Rnd 11: working in FLO, sc in each st around (30). This round makes the neat rim near the top of the pot.

Rnd 12: sc in each st around (30)

Rnd 13: sc in each st around (30). Sl st to the next st. Fasten off and weave in your ends.

CACTUS BODY

Work with green yarn and the 9.0 mm hook. Leave a long starting tail.

Ch 15.

Row 1: Sc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across (14)

Rows 2-30: Ch 1, turn, sc in the BLO of each of the next 14 sts (14), 29 rows

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. The body is a flat rectangle of 30 rows, each 14 stitches, 420 single crochet stitches in all.

FLOWER

Work with pink yarn and the 9.0 mm hook. This flower is a single row worked into a magic circle.

Rnd 1: Working into a MC, [ch 3, dc, ch 3, sl st to MC] x 5. Fasten off and pull the magic circle tight to tighten the middle of the flower. You have 5 petals.

TOP HAT (optional)

Work with brown yarn and the 9.0 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MC (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

Rnd 3: working in BLO, sc in each st around (12)

Rnd 4-5: sc in each st around (12), 2 rounds

Rnd 6: working in FLO, [sc, inc] x 6 (18)

Rnd 7: [2 sc, inc] x 6 (24). Sl st to the next st. Fasten off and weave in your ends.

ASSEMBLY

1. Lay the cactus body flat and place the eyes. Position the 18 mm safety eyes on the front of the flat body before you stuff it, a little closer together than you want them to be, because the piece stretches a little when it is stuffed. Press the washers on firmly from the inside. Do not attach the backings until you are happy with the eye position.

2. Gather the top. Use the long starting tail to run a gathering stitch around the stitches at one short end of the body. Pull the tail to gather the stitches tightly together and secure them with a knot. This is the top of the cactus.

3. Sew the body to the pot. Fold the rectangle into a tube so the two long edges meet. Use the long tail at the other short end to sew that end to the top of the pot, leaving the side seam open.

4. Stuff the body. Use the side opening of the cactus to stuff it with polyfil, a little at a time so the shape stays smooth.

5. Sew the side seam. Using another strand of yarn, sew up the side seam with an invisible stitch or a whip stitch.

6. Add the flower or the top hat. Sew the pink flower to the top of the cactus, or sew the little brown top hat there instead.

7. Embroider the face. Using the black yarn, embroider a little mouth and eyelashes on the cactus, below and beside the eyes.

8. Finish. Weave in all loose ends with the yarn needle, hiding them inside the pot or the body so they do not show.

SAFETY NOTE

Safety eyes are not suitable for children under 3 years old, because small parts can come loose and be a choking hazard. For a cactus a small child will play with, embroider the eyes with black yarn instead: stitch two small vertical ovals in the same position. Check every part is secure before giving the cactus to a child, and do not add beads or buttons, which can also come loose.

TIPS FOR A NEAT CACTUS

- Count to 14 at the end of every body row. The body is 30 rows of 14 stitches, 420 stitches in all. If your count is off by 1 or 2, check the row you just worked before going on.
- Work every body row in the back loop only. The ribs are what give the cactus its shape, so do not work into both loops by mistake.
- Place the eyes before you stuff. The flat body is the only time you can judge the spacing, and the piece stretches when it is stuffed, so place the eyes a little closer together than you want them.
- Stuff in small pinches. Little bits at a time give a smooth, even shape with no lumps.
- Keep the pot base flat. The first 5 rounds make a flat disc of 30 stitches; work the round 6 back loop round carefully so the wall turns up with a crisp corner.

VARIATIONS

- Classic terracotta pot: work the pot in a warm terracotta or rust brown instead of dark brown and keep everything else the same. The designer says the pot can be made in any color.
- A smaller cactus: use a finer yarn with a smaller hook and follow the same rows and rounds. The cactus will come out a little smaller, so choose smaller safety eyes to match.
- A gift set: make two cacti, one with the pink flower and one with the little brown top hat, and sit them together on a shelf. They work up fast, so a pair is a comfortable project for a gift.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Winding Road Crochet (Lindsey Dale): Free Crochet Cactus Pattern: A Quick Plushie to Love, https://www.windingroadcrochet.com/free-crochet-cactus-pattern-a-quick-plushie-to-love/

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