CROCHET COW: BEAUTIFUL 8 INCH MINI COW WITH SPOTS AND HORNS

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

About 8 inches (20 cm) tall, using worsted-weight (#4) yarn and a 3.5 mm hook. Sizes are approximate and will vary a little with your yarn and tension.

SKILL LEVEL

Beginner friendly. The source pattern calls this cow a great beginner friendly project. You need a magic circle, single crochet, increases, invisible decreases, chain stitches, slip stitches and double crochet, and you need to join two legs into the body as you work. A crocheter who has made one amigurumi toy before will manage it well.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. It works up quickly: allow a few relaxed evenings, a little longer the first time. That time is an estimate, not a source fact.

MATERIALS

- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, white, 25 g: body, head and ears
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, accent color, 25 g: feet, lower legs, hands, lower arms, horns, spots and tail
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, pink, a small amount: nose
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- 12 mm safety eyes, 1 pair
- Polyester stuffing, a small amount
- Yarn needle (tapestry needle)
- Stitch markers
- Black crochet or embroidery thread for the eyelashes, eyebrows and nostrils
- Scissors

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

MC: magic circle. ch: chain. sc: single crochet. dc: double crochet. inc: increase (2 sc in the same stitch). dec: invisible decrease (single crochet 2 stitches together). sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es). Rnd: round. FO: fasten off.

NOTES

Work 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 and decrease round. 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, so do not convert the stitches in this pattern. Use invisible decreases for a cleaner finish. The source pattern gives no gauge. Gauge is not vital for a toy, but it affects the finished size and how much yarn you need: work with a firm, even tension so the stuffing does not show through. Stuff as you go, firmly but not stretched, and stuff the head and neck firmly so the head does not wobble.

NOSE (make 1)

Work in pink. Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing onto the head. With a small piece of black yarn and a tapestry needle, make a V for each nostril on round 4, about 3 to 4 stitches apart.

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: [7 sc, inc] x 3 (27)

Rnd 6-7: sc in each st around (27), 2 rounds

LEGS (make 2)

Work the first 5 rounds in the accent color for the feet, then change to white for the rest of the leg. Work Leg 1 first and fasten off. Work Leg 2 the same way but do NOT fasten off after Rnd 12: the body starts from Leg 2.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MC (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

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

Rnd 4-5: sc in each st around (18), 2 rounds

Change to white after Rnd 5.

Rnd 6-12: sc in each st around (18), 7 rounds

Fasten off Leg 1 only. After Rnd 12 of Leg 2, do NOT fasten off: the body starts from Leg 2. Stuff both legs lightly now, and keep adding a little stuffing every few rounds of the body so the legs stay full.

BODY AND HEAD

The body and head are worked in one piece, starting from the joined legs and working up. Continue with white and the 3.5 mm hook, starting from Leg 2.

Rnd 13: Sc in the next 7 sts (this lines the color change up at the back). Ch 3 and attach to Leg 1 with a sc. Sc in the remaining 17 sts around Leg 1. Sc across each of the 3 ch. Sc in the

remaining 11 sts around Leg 2. Sc across each of the 3 ch again (42). Note: you work 7 + 1 + 17 + 3 + 11 + 3 = 42 stitches in this round, counting the stitches on both sides of the chain 3 bridge.

Rnd 14-24: sc in each st around (42), 11 rounds

Rnd 25: [5 sc, dec] x 6 (36)

Rnd 26: [4 sc, dec] x 6 (30)

Rnd 27: sc in each st around (30)

Rnd 28: [3 sc, dec] x 6 (24)

Rnd 29: [2 sc, dec] x 6 (18)

The head starts at Rnd 30.

Rnd 30: [2 sc, inc] x 6 (24)

Rnd 31: [3 sc, inc] x 6 (30)

Rnd 32: [4 sc, inc] x 6 (36)

Rnd 33: [5 sc, inc] x 6 (42)

Rnd 34: [6 sc, inc] x 6 (48)

Rnd 35: [7 sc, inc] x 6 (54)

Rnd 36-43: sc in each st around (54), 8 rounds. Place the eyes 7 stitches apart between Rnds 41 and 42. Add the eyebrows and eyelashes before you press the eye backs on.

Rnd 44: [7 sc, dec] x 6 (48)

Rnd 45: [6 sc, dec] x 6 (42)

Rnd 46: [5 sc, dec] x 6 (36)

Rnd 47: [4 sc, dec] x 6 (30)

Rnd 48: [3 sc, dec] x 6 (24)

Rnd 49: [2 sc, dec] x 6 (18)

Rnd 50: [sc, dec] x 6 (12)

Rnd 51: dec x 6 (6). Fasten off and sew the remaining hole closed. Weave in the end.

Stuff the body and head firmly as you go, adding the stuffing a little at a time so the shape stays smooth. Stuff the neck (Rnds 28-30) firmly so the head does not wobble.

FACE

Work the face after Rnd 43, before you finish stuffing the head, and before you press the safety eye backs on.

Eyes: Insert the 12 mm safety eyes 7 stitches apart between Rnds 41 and 42. Add the eyebrows and eyelashes with black thread to your liking before you secure the backs.

Nose: Sew the pink nose centered between the eyes, adding stuffing as you go. The nostrils are two small black V shapes on round 4 of the nose, about 3 to 4 stitches apart.

EARS (make 2)

Work in the body color (white).

Rnd 1: 7 sc in MC (7)

Rnd 2-3: sc in each st around (7), 2 rounds

Rnd 4: inc in each st around (14)

Rnd 5-11: sc in each st around (14), 7 rounds

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing. Fold the ear in half and sc across to close the ear. Note: folding 14 stitches gives 7 sc across the folded edge.

ARMS (make 2)

Stuff lightly at the bottom only. Work the first 5 rounds in the accent color for the hands, then change to white.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MC (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

Rnd 3: [3 sc, inc] x 3 (15)

Rnd 4: sc in each st around (15)

Rnd 5: [sc, dec] x 5 (10)

Change to white after Rnd 5.

Rnd 6-14: sc in each st around (10), 9 rounds

At the end of Rnd 14, pinch the arm flat and make 5 sc across the top to close. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

HORNS (make 2)

Work in the accent color. Stuff as you go when you sew them on.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MC (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

Rnd 3: [3 sc, inc] x 3 (15)

Rnd 4: sc in each st around (15)

Rnd 5: [sc, dec] x 5 (10)

Rnd 6: sc in each st around (10)

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

SPOTS (make 2 of each size)

Work in the accent color.

LARGE SPOT (make 2)

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 dc in the first 2 sts, sl st in the next] x 6 (30). Note: each repeat works 2 dc in the first stitch, 2 dc in the second stitch and a sl st in the third stitch, so it uses 3 stitches and makes 5 stitches. Six repeats use 18 stitches and make 30.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

SMALL SPOT (make 2)

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MC (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

Rnd 3: [2 dc in the first st, sl st in the next] x 6 (18). Note: each repeat works 2 dc in one stitch and a sl st in the next stitch, so it uses 2 stitches and makes 3 stitches. Six repeats use 12 stitches and make 18.

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

TAIL

Cut 3 strands of your accent color and 1 strand of white, each approximately 8 inches (20 cm) long. Using your crochet hook, pull the strands through a center stitch on the back of your cow. Braid the tail to your desired length. Secure with a knot and trim as needed.

ASSEMBLY

1. Place the eyes. Insert the 12 mm safety eyes 7 stitches apart between Rnds 41 and 42, before you finish stuffing the head. Add the eyebrows and eyelashes with black thread first, then press the washers on firmly from the inside. Do not attach the backings until you are happy with the eye position.

2. Sew on the nose. Sew the pink nose centered between the eyes, adding stuffing as you go. The nostrils are two small black V shapes on round 4 of the nose, about 3 to 4 stitches apart.

3. Attach the ears. Sew the ears onto the head on each side.

4. Attach the horns. Sew the horns evenly placed between the ears, stuffing as you go.

5. Attach the arms. Sew the arms onto the body at Rnd 27, centered with the head.

6. Attach the spots. Sew one large spot and one small spot onto the front of the body and one large spot and one small spot onto the back of the body.

7. Attach the tail. Make the braided tail as described above on the back of the cow.

8. Finish. Weave in all loose ends with the yarn needle, hiding them inside the body or the head 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 cow a small child will play with, embroider the eyes with black yarn instead: stitch two small vertical ovals in the same position, 7 stitches apart between Rnds 41 and 42. Check every part is secure before giving the cow to a child, and do not add beads or buttons, which can also come loose.

TIPS FOR A NEAT COW

- Count at the end of every increase and decrease round. The body grows by 6 stitches on its increase rounds and shrinks by 6 on its decrease rounds. If your count is off by 6, you have missed or added one repeat; if it is off by 1 or 2, check the round you just worked before going on.
- Stuff in small pinches. Little bits at a time give a smooth, even shape with no lumps. Pull the stuffing apart into thin layers before you add it, and push it into the sides of the body rather than dropping in one big piece.
- Stuff the neck firmly. The neck is the narrow part between the body and the head (Rnds 28-30). If it is soft, the head will flop. Add extra stuffing there and check the head sits upright.
- Keep the eyes level. Before you press the washers on, look at the face from the front and check both eyes sit at the same height, 7 stitches apart between Rnds 41 and 42.
- Pin before you sew. Pin the ears, horns, arms and spots in place first and look at the cow from the front. It is easy to move a pin; it is hard to move a sewn seam.

VARIATIONS

- Classic black and white cow: use black as the accent color for the feet, arms, horns and spots, with a pink nose. This is the classic dairy cow look.
- Soft brown and cream cow: use a warm brown or khaki as the accent color. The designer used Lion Brand Jeans yarn in Khaki and Stovepipe for her cows.
- A gift set: make two cows, one black and white and one brown and cream, and sit them together on a shelf. They work up quickly, so a pair is a comfortable project for a gift.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Grace and Yarn: Free Mini Crochet Cow Pattern, https://www.graceandyarn.com/2020/05/free-mini-crochet-cow-pattern.html

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