CROCHET ELEPHANT: BEAUTIFUL AMIGURUMI IN 12 CUDDLY INCHES

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Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

About 12 in (30 cm) tall from head to feet, with the legs hanging straight. If you use a smaller crochet hook, it may turn out a little bit smaller.

SKILL LEVEL

Advanced beginner. You need a magic circle, single crochet, single crochet increase, and invisible decrease, plus basic sewing to join the pieces. The body and head are worked in one piece in continuous rounds. The legs, arms, trunk, and ears are worked separately and sewn on.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. It is a large amigurumi with seven separate pieces (2 legs, 2 arms, 2 ears, and 1 trunk) plus assembly, so most crocheters finish it over several relaxed evenings.

MATERIALS

- Worsted weight (#4) yarn, about 200 yd (182 m) in a main color and about 20 yd (18 m) in an accent color. The source pattern used Lion Brand A Star is Born: Naptime yarn in Pale Aqua and Lilac. That yarn is a soft velvet and chenille type yarn. Regular worsted weight yarn also works perfectly for this project.
- 4 mm crochet hook, or 3.5 mm if you crochet loosely, so the stitches stay tight and the stuffing cannot be seen through them.
- 12 mm safety eyes, or embroidered eyes as an alternative.
- Fiber stuffing, such as PolyFil or fiberfill.
- Yarn needle for sewing pieces together and weaving in ends. Bent yarn needles work best for sewing amigurumi pieces together.
- Stitch marker or a piece of yarn to mark the start of each round.
- Scissors.

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

ch: chain. inc: increase, 2 single crochet in one stitch. inv dec: invisible decrease. sc: single crochet. sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es).

NOTES

This pattern is written in US crochet terms. Work in continuous rounds. Do not join the last stitch of a round to the first stitch of the next round. Use a stitch marker to mark the start of each round. For color changes, work the last stitch of the round as normal up to the last yarn over, then yarn over in the new color and complete the stitch. Work over the yarn tails for a few stitches so they are secure, or weave them in later. Stuff the body and head as you go, and stuff the neck area firmly enough to help prevent the head from wobbling. Stuff firmly, but not so much that you see the stuffing through the stitches. The source pattern gives no gauge, so no gauge is stated here.

BODY

Work in the main color. Stuff as you go. Make sure the lower part of the body is stuffed to your desired firmness before the opening gets too narrow at the top.

Round 1: Magic circle, ch 1, make 6 sc into the ring. (6 sts)

Round 2: 2 sc in each st around. (12 sts)

Round 3: 2 sc in first st, sc in next st, repeat around. (18 sts)

Round 4: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 2 sts, repeat around. (24 sts)

Round 5: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 3 sts, repeat around. (30 sts)

Round 6: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 4 sts, repeat around. (36 sts)

Round 7: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 5 sts, repeat around. (42 sts)

Round 8: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 6 sts, repeat around. (48 sts)

Rounds 9-20: Sc in each st around. (48 sts)

Round 21: Inv dec, sc in next 6 sts, repeat around. (42 sts)

Round 22: Sc in each st around. (42 sts)

Round 23: Inv dec, sc in next 5 sts, repeat around. (36 sts)

Rounds 24-25: Sc in each st around. (36 sts)

Round 26: Inv dec, sc in next 4 sts, repeat around. (30 sts)

Rounds 27-28: Sc in each st around. (30 sts)

Round 29: Inv dec, sc in next 3 sts, repeat around. (24 sts)

Rounds 30-31: Sc in each st around. (24 sts)

Round 32: Inv dec, sc in next 2 sts, repeat around. (18 sts)

Rounds 33-34: Sc in each st around. (18 sts)

This ends the body. Do not fasten off. Continue to the head below. Round count starts again at 1 for the head.

HEAD

Work in the main color. Stuff the top of the body, the neck area, and the head as you go. When about half of the head is done, push some stuffing down into the top of the body and the neck area.

Round 1: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 2 sts, repeat around. (24 sts)

Round 2: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 3 sts, repeat around. (30 sts)

Round 3: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 4 sts, repeat around. (36 sts)

Round 4: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 5 sts, repeat around. (42 sts)

Round 5: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 6 sts, repeat around. (48 sts)

Round 6: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 7 sts, repeat around. (54 sts)

Round 7: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 8 sts, repeat around. (60 sts)

Rounds 8-15: Sc in each st around. (60 sts)

Round 16: Inv dec, sc in next 8 sts, repeat around. (54 sts)

Insert the safety eyes between Rounds 14 and 15, about 10 sts apart in the middle of the face.

Round 17: Inv dec, sc in next 7 sts, repeat around. (48 sts)

Round 18: Inv dec, sc in next 6 sts, repeat around. (42 sts)

Round 19: Inv dec, sc in next 5 sts, repeat around. (36 sts)

Round 20: Inv dec, sc in next 4 sts, repeat around. (30 sts)

Round 21: Inv dec, sc in next 3 sts, repeat around. (24 sts)

Round 22: Inv dec, sc in next 2 sts, repeat around. (18 sts)

Make sure the head is well stuffed before the opening gets too small.

Round 23: Inv dec, sc in next st, repeat around. (12 sts)

Round 24: Inv dec around. (6 sts)

Fasten off and cut the yarn. Use your yarn needle to sew the top of the head closed. Weave in the ends. Set the body and head aside until all pieces are worked up.

LEGS (make 2)

Stuff the legs as you go. Firmly stuff the foot and lower leg, then gently stuff the rest of the way up the leg.

Round 1: In the accent color, magic circle, ch 1, make 6 sc into the ring. (6 sts)

Round 2: 2 sc in each st around. (12 sts)

Round 3: 2 sc in first st, sc in next st, repeat around. (18 sts)

Round 4: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 2 sts, repeat around. (24 sts)

Change to the main color.

Rounds 5-9: Sc in each st around. (24 sts)

Round 10: Sc in first 8 sts, inv dec 4 times in the next 8 sts, sc in last 8 sts. (20 sts)

Round 11: Sc in first 6 sts, inv dec 4 times in the next 8 sts, sc in last 6 sts. (16 sts)

Round 12: Sc in first 6 sts, inv dec 2 times in the next 4 sts, sc in last 6 sts. (14 sts)

Rounds 13-22: Sc in each st around. (14 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Finish stuffing the legs before you sew the tops closed. To sew the top of each leg closed, turn the leg so the front of the foot is facing you. Flatten the top of the leg

so the stitches line up on top of each other. Use your yarn needle to sew back and forth through the stitches to close the top of the leg. Set the legs aside.

ARMS (make 2)

Stuff the arms as you go. Firmly stuff the bottom of the arms, but gently stuff the rest of the way up. The more you stuff the arms, the farther the arms will sit from the body when you sew them on.

Round 1: In the accent color, magic circle, ch 1, make 6 sc into the ring. (6 sts)

Round 2: 2 sc in each st around. (12 sts)

Round 3: 2 sc in first st, sc in next st, repeat around. (18 sts)

Rounds 4-7: Sc in each st around. (18 sts)

Round 8: Inv dec, sc in next st, repeat around. (12 sts)

Rounds 9-20: Sc in each st around. (12 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Use your yarn needle to sew the top of each arm closed. Set aside.

EARS (make 2)

Each ear is made from two circles worked in Rounds 1-6, one in the accent color and one in the main color, then joined together and worked through both layers in Rounds 7-9.

First circle, in the accent color

Round 1: Magic circle, ch 1, make 6 sc into the ring. (6 sts)

Round 2: 2 sc in each st around. (12 sts)

Round 3: 2 sc in first st, sc in next st, repeat around. (18 sts)

Round 4: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 2 sts, repeat around. (24 sts)

Round 5: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 3 sts, repeat around. (30 sts)

Round 6: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 4 sts, repeat around. (36 sts)

Fasten off. Weave in the yarn tail now, or crochet over it in the next step to secure it. This circle is the inner ear part. Using the main color, repeat Rounds 1-6 for a second circle. Do not fasten off on the second circle.

Place the first circle in the accent color on top of the second circle in the main color and line up the stitches. Pass your hook through a stitch on the top circle, grab the loop of yarn on the back circle, and pull it through to the front. Ch 1 and work Rounds 7-9 below through both layers.

Round 7: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 5 sts, repeat around. (42 sts)

Round 8: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 6 sts, repeat around. (48 sts)

Round 9: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 7 sts, repeat around. (54 sts)

Fasten off. Leave a long tail to sew the ear onto the head. Repeat Rounds 1-9 again for the second ear.

Add some shape to the ears by pinching a fold in the top of each ear and using your yarn needle and yarn tail to sew the fold together about a quarter to a third of the way into the ear. Set them

aside.

TRUNK

Work in the main color. Stuff the trunk well as you go.

Round 1: Magic circle, ch 1, make 6 sc into the ring. (6 sts)

Round 2: 2 sc in first st, sc in next st, repeat around. (9 sts)

Rounds 3-6: Sc in each st around. (9 sts)

Round 7: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 8 sts. (10 sts)

Round 8: Sc in each st around. (10 sts)

Round 9: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 9 sts. (11 sts)

Round 10: Sc in each st around. (11 sts)

Round 11: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 10 sts. (12 sts)

Rounds 12-14: Sc in each st around. (12 sts)

Round 15: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 11 sts. (13 sts)

Round 16: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 12 sts. (14 sts)

Round 17: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 13 sts. (15 sts)

Round 18: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 14 sts. (16 sts)

Round 19: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 15 sts. (17 sts)

Round 20: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 16 sts. (18 sts)

Round 21: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 17 sts. (19 sts)

Round 22: 2 sc in first st, sc in next 18 sts. (20 sts)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. The trunk should have a little bit of a natural curl from the way the increases were worked.

To add more of an upwards curve at the end, use your yarn needle to run the yarn tail under a few of the stitches on the top of the trunk. When you pull the yarn tighter, it raises the end of the trunk and creates more of a curve upwards. Run your needle back underneath nearby stitches and then travel back up again to strengthen the curve. When you are happy with the curve, secure it by weaving in the yarn tail.

ASSEMBLY

Step 1, attach the legs: Line up the legs on the body, more towards the front of the body so the elephant can sit without falling over. Depending on where the legs are, your elephant might need to lean against something to sit. Attach the legs to the body by sewing through each stitch at the top of each leg and passing through a stitch on the body. When you are finished, the legs should be able to hang straight or fold up for sitting. Weave in the ends and cut the yarn.

Step 2, attach the arms: Line up the arms on the body at around the second round below the head, leaving a small gap between the arms and the head as a neck space. Sew in and out of each stitch at the top of each arm, passing through a stitch on the body. When the arms are

secure, weave in the ends and cut the yarn tails. If you would like the arms to curve towards the front of the body, you can sew them on at a bit of an angle.

Step 3, sew on the ears: Line up each ear on the head. The top of the ear should roughly line up with the 4th or 5th round from the top of the head. To have the ears stand out with the inner ear part facing forward, sew in and out of the folded part at the back of the ear. When the ears are secure, weave in the ends and cut the yarn.

Step 4, sew on the trunk: First, check that the trunk is stuffed all the way to the top before you start sewing. Position the trunk in the center of the face. The top of the trunk should line up roughly at the bottom of the eyes. Make sure the curved part of the trunk is pointing upwards and centered. Pass your yarn needle up and down through each stitch around the outside of the trunk, passing through a stitch on the head each time. When you have worked your way around the whole trunk, weave in the ends and cut the yarn.

CARE

The source pattern gives no care instructions. Treat the elephant gently: spot clean with a damp cloth and mild soap, and let it air dry. Do not bleach. Reshape while damp.

TIPS FOR A NEAT ELEPHANT

- Mark the start of every round. The pattern is worked in continuous rounds with no joins, so a stitch marker keeps the round counts true.
- Stuff the neck firmly. A soft neck lets the large head wobble, so push extra stuffing into the neck area while the head is about half done.
- Stuff the legs firmly at the foot and gently above it. A firm foot helps the elephant sit, and a soft upper leg folds up neatly.
- Keep the ear fold at the back. Sew through the folded part at the back of each ear so the accent color inner ear faces forward.
- Curve the trunk before you sew it on. Pull the yarn tail under the top stitches to lift the tip, then secure it, so the curve stays while you sew.

VARIATIONS

- Change the colors: the source elephant is Pale Aqua with Lilac accents. Soft grey with pink, or cream with sage, both suit a nursery elephant.
- Use regular worsted weight yarn instead of velvet or chenille yarn. The shape stays the same, and the stitches show more clearly.
- Use a 3.5 mm hook for tighter stitches if you crochet loosely, so the stuffing cannot be seen through the stitches.
- Embroider the eyes instead of safety eyes if the elephant is for a very small child.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Loops and Love Crochet: Elephant Amigurumi, https://www.loopsandlovecrochet.com/2021/02/15/elephant-amigurumi-free-crochet-pattern/

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