CROCHET HEDGEHOG: A BEAUTIFUL 14 INCH AMIGURUMI IN OVERALLS

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Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

About 14 inches (36 cm) tall from the spines to the feet, using worsted-weight (#4) yarn and a 3.5 mm hook, with a 5 mm hook for the spine hat. Sizes are approximate and will vary a little with your yarn and tension.

SKILL LEVEL

The source pattern gives no skill level. This hedgehog uses only basic stitches: single crochet, half double crochet, increases, decreases, chain stitches and slip stitches. You join the two legs into the body as you work and sew several parts on, so it suits a confident beginner who has made one amigurumi toy before, or an intermediate crocheter.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. A 14 inch amigurumi with joined legs, a sewn head, a spine hat and several small parts is a weekend project for most crocheters: allow a few relaxed evenings, a little longer the first time.

MATERIALS

- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, about 25 g in the color of your choice: overalls
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, about 15 g beige: head, face and nose
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, a small amount of brown: paws and spine hat
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, a small amount in a second color: shirt and sleeves
- Black yarn, a small amount: nose
- Black embroidery thread: eyelashes
- 3.5 mm crochet hook for all parts except the spine hat
- 5 mm crochet hook for the spine hat
- 10.5 or 11 mm safety eyes, 1 pair
- Polyester stuffing
- Tapestry needle
- Scissors
- Stitch markers (optional)

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

MR: magic ring. ch: chain. sc: single crochet. hdc: half double crochet. inc: increase (2 sc in the same stitch). hdc inc: half double crochet increase (2 hdc in the same stitch). dec: invisible decrease (single crochet 2 stitches together). sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es). Rnd: round. BLO: back loop only. FO: fasten off.

NOTES

Work in continuous rounds. Do not join rounds and do not turn, unless the pattern says so. The spine hat is the one exception: its rounds are joined with a slip stitch. 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 tightly enough that the stuffing does not show through. Stuff slowly as you go, so the toy is firm but not stretched.

LEGS (make 2)

Work with brown. Make 2 legs the same way. Fasten off the first leg and set it aside. Do NOT fasten off the second leg: the body starts from the second leg.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (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)

Rnd 7-8: sc in each st around (30), 2 rounds

Rnd 9: 9 sc, dec x 6, 9 sc (24)

Rnd 10: 6 sc, dec x 6, 6 sc (18). Change to the overalls color.

Rnd 11-24: sc in each st around (18), 14 rounds

Fasten off the first leg and set it aside. On the second leg, after Rnd 24, work a sc in each of the next 6 stitches: this lines up the legs so both feet face the same direction when you join them. Do NOT fasten off the second leg.

BODY

Continue with the overalls color and the 3.5 mm hook, starting from the second leg.

Rnd 25: Ch 3 and attach to the first leg with a sc (make sure both feet face the same direction), sc in the remaining stitches around the leg, sc across each of the 3 chains, sc in the remaining stitches of the next leg, sc across each of the 3 chains (42). This completes the join and is where the next round starts.

Rnd 26-40: sc in each st around (42), 15 rounds. Change to the shirt color.

Rnd 41: sc in each st around (42)

Rnd 42: [5 sc, dec] x 6 (36)

Rnd 43: [4 sc, dec] x 6 (30)

Rnd 44: sc in each st around (30). Change to beige.

Rnd 45: [3 sc, dec] x 6 (24)

Rnd 46-47: sc in each st around (24), 2 rounds

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing. Stuff the body firmly as you go.

HEAD

Work with beige and the 3.5 mm hook. The head is made separately and sewn onto the body. Making it separately keeps the stuffing in the head, where it belongs, instead of sinking down into the neck.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (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: [4 sc, inc] x 6 (36)

Rnd 7: [5 sc, inc] x 6 (42)

Rnd 8: [6 sc, inc] x 6 (48)

Rnd 9: [7 sc, inc] x 6 (54)

Rnd 10-18: sc in each st around (54), 9 rounds. Insert the eyes between rows 16 and 17, 7 stitches apart, before you start closing the head. If you like, sew on the eyelashes before you fasten the backs of the eyes.

Rnd 19: [7 sc, dec] x 6 (48)

Rnd 20: [6 sc, dec] x 6 (42)

Rnd 21: [5 sc, dec] x 6 (36)

Rnd 22: [4 sc, dec] x 6 (30)

Rnd 23: [3 sc, dec] x 6 (24). Continue to stuff the head firmly.

Rnd 24: [2 sc, dec] x 6 (18)

Rnd 25: [sc, dec] x 6 (12)

Rnd 26: dec x 6 (6)

Fasten off and sew the remaining opening closed. Weave in the end. Stuff the head firmly as you go.

NOSE

Work with beige and the 3.5 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

Rnd 3-4: sc in each st around (12), 2 rounds

Rnd 5: [sc, inc] x 6 (18)

Rnd 6: sc in each st around (18)

Rnd 7: 6 sc, inc x 6, 6 sc (24)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Take your black yarn and tapestry needle and embroider the nose: make a V shape and pass through across it a few more times, from the bottom center to the top, until the nose is filled in.

SPINE HAT

Work with brown and the 5 mm crochet hook. This is the only piece that uses the bigger hook. The spine hat is made as a hat that you sew onto the head to be the spines. Join each round with a slip stitch as you go. The ch 1 at the start of each round does not count as the first stitch.

Rnd 1: 8 hdc in MR, join with a sl st to the first hdc, ch 1 (8)

Rnd 2: hdc inc in each st, join with a sl st, ch 1 (16)

Rnd 3: hdc in the first st, hdc inc in the next, repeat around, join with a sl st, ch 1 (24)

Rnd 4: hdc in the first 2 sts, hdc inc in the next, repeat around, join with a sl st, ch 1 (32)

Rnd 5: hdc in the first 3 sts, hdc inc in the next, repeat around, join with a sl st, ch 1 (40)

Rnd 6-9: hdc in each st around, join with a sl st, ch 1 (40), 4 rounds

Fasten off, leaving a long tail to sew onto the head.

SPINES

Make a slip knot and attach it to the top of the hat with a slip stitch. Ch 10, skip a post or stitch, and slip stitch into the next post or stitch. This makes the first spine. Continue around the hat and then down to the next row until you reach the 8th round of the hat. Fasten off and weave in the ends.

BOW (optional, for a girl hedgehog)

Work with the color of your choice.

Ch 15.

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

Row 2: hdc across (14)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Using the tail, whip stitch the two ends together to make a tube, placing the sewn side in the middle. Wrap your yarn tightly around the middle 3 to 4 times to form the bow. Secure it in the back and use the remaining tail to sew it onto the head.

ARMS (make 2)

Lightly stuff the bottom of the arms only.

Work with brown and the 3.5 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

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

Rnd 4-5: sc in each st around (15), 2 rounds

Rnd 6: [sc, dec] x 5 (10). Change to beige.

Rnd 7-14: sc in each st around (10), 8 rounds. Change to the shirt color.

Rnd 15-20: sc in each st around (10), 6 rounds

At the end of Rnd 20, pinch the arm flat and make 5 sc across the top to close. Fasten off and leave a long tail to sew onto the body.

OVERALL STRAPS (make 2)

Work in the overalls color.

Ch 20, hdc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across (19)

Fasten off with a long tail for sewing.

FRONT POCKET

Work in the overalls color.

Row 1: Ch 8, sc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across, ch 1 and turn (7)

Rows 2-4: sc across, ch 1 (7), 3 rows

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

1. Sew the head onto the body. Make sure the facial features are centered. Add more stuffing as you go, so the head is firm and sits upright instead of wobbling. Stuffing the neck firmly as you sew the head on also adds sturdiness.

2. Sew the nose onto the head, centered evenly with the eyes. Stuff the nose lightly just before the sewing is complete.

3. Sew on the spine hat and the bow. Place the hat over the top and back of the head, and sew the bow onto the head if you made one.

4. Sew the arms onto the body, centered with the head, at row 44.

5. Sew each strap onto row 40, front and back, over the arms, crossing the straps in the back.

6. Sew the pocket onto the front of the body, centered, sewing along the sides and the bottom only.

7. Embroider the eyelashes. Using black embroidery thread, embroider a few small lashes beside each eye.

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 hedgehog a small child will play with, embroider the eyes with black yarn instead: stitch two small vertical ovals in the same position, between rows 16 and 17, 7 stitches apart. Check every part is secure before giving the hedgehog to a child, and do not add beads or buttons, which can also come loose.

TIPS FOR A NEAT HEDGEHOG

- Count at the end of every increase and decrease round. The head 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 head firmly. The head is sewn on separately, so stuff it firmly as you go: a soft head will not hold its shape once it is sewn onto the body.
- 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 rows 16 and 17.
- Keep the spines even. The chain 10 spine loops are worked into the posts of the hat, so keep your tension even from loop to loop and work around and down to the 8th round of the hat.
- Trust your marker in the spine hat. The spine hat rounds are joined, so the ch 1 at the start of each round does not count as a stitch. Move the marker up every round and count the half double crochets you work.

VARIATIONS

- Hedgehog in autumn colors: work the overalls in a warm brown and the shirt in rust or mustard, and keep the brown spine hat and beige face the same. The woodland colors suit a fall shelf.
- A smaller hedgehog: use a finer yarn with a smaller hook and follow the same rounds. The toy will come out a little smaller, so choose smaller safety eyes to match.
- A gift set: make two hedgehogs in different overalls colors and sit them together on a shelf. They take a weekend each, so a pair is a comfortable project for a gift.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Grace and Yarn: Amigurumi Hedgehogs, A Free Crochet Tutorial, https://www.graceandyarn.com/2018/06/amigurumi-hedgehogs-free-crochet.html

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