CROCHET HORSE: A BEAUTIFUL 7.5 INCH FRIEND WITH A CURLY MANE

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

About 5.5 inches (14 cm) tall sitting, or 7.5 inches (19 cm) tall standing, using worsted-weight (#4) yarn and a 4.0 mm hook. Sizes are approximate and will vary a little with your yarn and tension.

SKILL LEVEL

Advanced beginner. You need a magic ring, single crochet, increases, decreases, chain stitches and slip stitches, and you need to sew separate pieces together. The head needs careful eye placement, so it helps to have made one amigurumi toy before.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. The designer says this horse works up very quickly. Allow a few relaxed evenings, a little longer the first time.

MATERIALS

- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, WeCrochet Brava Worsted in brown (color A), 70 yards: body, head, ears, upper legs and upper arms
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, WeCrochet Brava Worsted in cream (color B), 18 yards: muzzle, hair curls A and C
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, WeCrochet Brava Worsted in dark brown (color C), 30 yards: hooves, lower legs and lower arms, hair curls B
- 4.0 mm (G) crochet hook
- 9 mm safety eyes, 1 pair
- Polyester stuffing (poly-fil), a small amount
- Tapestry needle (yarn needle)
- Stitch markers
- Scissors

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

MR: magic ring. ch: chain. sc: single crochet. inc: increase (2 sc in the same stitch). SC2tog: single crochet 2 stitches together (invisible decrease is recommended). 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. 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. Gauge is not necessary for this toy, but use a hook that is smaller than the size recommended for your yarn weight, so the stuffing does not show through the stitches. All pieces, except the hair curls, are worked in the round. Stuff the body, head, legs and arms as you work. Do not stuff the ears.

BODY

Work with color A (brown) and the 4.0 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

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

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

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

Rnd 6-11: sc in each st around (30), 6 rounds

Rnd 12: [SC2tog, 3 sc] x 6 (24)

Rnd 13-15: sc in each st around (24), 3 rounds

Rnd 16: [SC2tog, 2 sc] x 6 (18)

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off. Fill with stuffing.

HEAD

Work Rnds 1-5 with color B (cream), then change to color A (brown) for Rnds 6-21. Use the 4.0 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

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

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

Change to color A (brown).

Rnd 6: sc in each st around (18)

Rnd 7: [inc, 2 sc] x 3, sc 9 (21)

Rnd 8: sc in each st around (21)

Rnd 9: [inc, 3 sc] x 3, sc 9 (24)

Rnd 10: [inc, 4 sc] x 3, sc 9 (27)

Rnd 11: [inc, 5 sc] x 3, sc 9 (30)

Rnd 12: [inc, 4 sc] x 3, place a marker in the last stitch worked, [inc, 4 sc] x 3 (36). The marker you just placed, and the marker at the beginning of this round, show the front sides of the face. The stitches between the two markers on the first side are the top of the head. The stitches between the two markers on the other side are the bottom of the head. If you are using safety eyes, insert the eyes between Rnds 10 and 11, with 8 stitches between them. You can now remove the second marker.

Rnd 13-15: sc in each st around (36), 3 rounds

Rnd 16: [SC2tog, 4 sc] x 6 (30)

Rnd 17: [SC2tog, 3 sc] x 6 (24)

Rnd 18: sc in each st around (24)

Rnd 19: [SC2tog, 2 sc] x 6 (18)

Rnd 20: [SC2tog, sc] x 6 (12)

Fill the head with stuffing.

Rnd 21: SC2tog x 6 (6)

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand. Weave the yarn in and out of the remaining stitches, pull tight to close, tie off and weave in the ends.

EARS (make 2)

Work with color A (brown) and the 4.0 mm hook. Do not stuff the ears.

Rnd 1: 4 sc in MR (4)

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

Rnd 3: [inc, sc] x 3 (9)

Rnd 4: [inc, 2 sc] x 3 (12)

Rnd 5-6: sc in each st around (12), 2 rounds

Rnd 7: [SC2tog, 2 sc] x 3 (9)

Rnd 8: Fold the ear closed, leaving 1 unworked st at the beginning of the fold. Working through both sides, sc in each st across, leaving 2 unworked sts at the end of the fold (3). Then insert the hook through the remaining 2 unworked sts, pinch the bottom of the ear to bring each end together, and working through both ends, join the ear with 1 sc.

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off.

HAIR CURLS A (make 2)

Work with color B (cream) and the 4.0 mm hook. Each row below is one curl. Do not fasten off between rows, only after the last row.

R1: Ch 16, 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each of the next 2 sts, [inc, sc in each of the next 2 sts] repeat across. Do not fasten off. (20)

R2: Ch 16, 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each of the next 2 sts, [inc, sc in each of the next 2 sts] repeat across. Do not fasten off. (20)

R3: Ch 16, 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each of the next 2 sts, [inc, sc in each of the next 2 sts] repeat across. Do not fasten off. (20)

R4: Ch 16, 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each of the next 2 sts, [inc, sc in each of the next 2 sts] repeat across. (20)

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off.

HAIR CURLS B (make 2)

Work with color C (dark brown) and the 4.0 mm hook. Each row below is one curl. Do not fasten off between rows, only after the last row.

R1: Ch 16, 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each of the next 2 sts, [inc, sc in each of the next 2 sts] repeat across. Do not fasten off. (20)

R2: Ch 16, 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each of the next 2 sts, [inc, sc in each of the next 2 sts] repeat across. Do not fasten off. (20)

R3: Ch 16, 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each of the next 2 sts, [inc, sc in each of the next 2 sts] repeat across. (20)

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off.

HAIR CURLS C (make 2)

Work with color B (cream) and the 4.0 mm hook. Each row below is one curl. Do not fasten off between rows, only after the last row.

R1: Ch 16, 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each of the next 2 sts, [inc, sc in each of the next 2 sts] repeat across. Do not fasten off. (20)

R2: Ch 16, 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each of the next 2 sts, [inc, sc in each of the next 2 sts] repeat across. (20)

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off.

LEGS (make 2)

Work Rnds 1-7 with color C (dark brown), then change to color A (brown) for Rnds 8-16. Use the 4.0 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

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

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

Rnd 5: working in BLO, sc in each st around (24). This round makes the neat line where the dark brown hoof meets the brown leg.

Rnd 6: sc in each st around (24)

Rnd 7: [SC2tog, 2 sc] x 6 (18)

Change to color A (brown).

Rnd 8-9: sc in each st around (18), 2 rounds

Rnd 10: [SC2tog, 7 sc] x 2 (16)

Rnd 11-15: sc in each st around (16), 5 rounds

Fill with stuffing.

Rnd 16: Fold the leg closed. Working through both sides, sc in each st across, leaving 1 unworked st on each side (7)

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off.

ARMS (make 2)

Work Rnds 1-6 with color C (dark brown), then change to color A (brown) for Rnds 7-14. Use the 4.0 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

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

Rnd 4: working in BLO, sc in each st around (18). This round makes the neat line where the dark brown hoof meets the brown arm.

Rnd 5: sc in each st around (18)

Rnd 6: [SC2tog, sc] x 6 (12)

Change to color A (brown).

Rnd 7-13: sc in each st around (12), 7 rounds

Fill with stuffing.

Rnd 14: Fold the arm closed. Working through both sides, sc in each st across, leaving 1 unworked st on each side (5)

Cut yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off.

ASSEMBLY

Use pins to hold the pieces in place as you sew. This keeps everything from moving around and helps you get the placement right.

1. Embroider the nostrils. Using color B (cream), embroider the nostrils over Rnds 4 and 5 of the head.

2. Attach the ears. Sew one ear to the top of the head over Rnds 14 and 15, leaving about 10 stitches between the two ears.

3. Attach the mane. Layer one piece each of hair curls A, B and C on the head behind the ears, beginning at about Rnd 14 with curl A, followed by curl B at about Rnd 15, and curl C at about Rnd 16. Arrange the curls around each other so the colors are evenly distributed.

4. Attach the head to the body. Sew the head to the body so the snout faces straight out, attaching the body to about Rnds 12 to 16 of the bottom of the head.

5. Attach the legs. Sew the legs over Rnds 4 and 5 of the body, with the inside ends of the legs touching in the middle.

6. Attach the arms. Sew the arms over Rnds 11 to 15 on each side of the body. At the top of the arms, leave about 10 stitches between the arms across the front of the body. At the bottom of the

arms, leave about 16 stitches between the arms across the front of the body.

7. Attach the tail. Sew the remaining hair curls A and B to the back of the body at about Rnds 5 and 6, in the shape of an X, crossing over each other. Arrange the curls around each other so the colors are evenly distributed. Note: the pattern makes two C pieces, but the written assembly uses only one C piece, in the mane. The second C piece is a spare.

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

SAFETY NOTE

Safety eyes pose a choking risk for babies. If you are making this toy for a baby, use yarn, felt, or embroidered details instead of safety eyes. Safety eyes are not suitable for children under 3 years old, because small parts can come loose and be a choking hazard. Check every part is secure before giving the horse to a child, and do not add beads or buttons, which can also come loose.

TIPS FOR A NEAT HORSE

- Count at the end of every increase and decrease round. 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.
- Use pins before you sew. Pin each piece in place and look at the horse from the front and the side before you commit to the placement.
- Trust the head marker in Rnd 12. The two markers show you the top and the bottom of the head, so the eyes land on the face and not on the back of the head.
- Let the curls curl. Each hair curl is a chain worked back with increases, so it twists on its own. Do not try to straighten the curls; arrange them in layers and let them fall naturally.

VARIATIONS

- Classic palomino horse: work the body, head, ears, legs and arms in a golden tan instead of brown and keep the cream muzzle and mane. The rounds stay exactly the same, only the colors change.
- A bigger horse in plush yarn: use a larger plush yarn, such as chenille or blanket yarn, with a larger hook and follow the same rounds. No other changes are needed, but the finished horse will be larger than the size given here.
- A black horse: work the body in black with a cream muzzle and a dark brown mane for a bold gift. The rounds stay exactly the same, only the colors change.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Nicole Chase: Hailey the Horse, https://www.thenicolechase.com/patterns/hailey-the-horse

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