CROCHET LAMB: BEAUTIFUL 8 INCH MINI LAMB WITH A FLOWER CROWN

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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

Advanced beginner. You need a magic ring, single crochet, increases, invisible decreases, chain stitches, slip stitches, half double crochet, double crochet and triple crochet, and you need to join two legs into the body as you work. The source pattern gives no skill level; this rating is our own, based on the leg join and the invisible decreases. 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, Lion Brand Feels Like Butta in white, 75 yards (69 m): body, head, back of the ears and upper arms
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, beige, a small amount: feet, lower legs, hands and lower arms
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, pink, a small amount: cheeks and inner ears
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, green, a small amount: leaves
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, your chosen flower color, a small amount: flowers
- 3.5 mm crochet hook
- 12 mm safety eyes, 1 pair
- Polyester stuffing, a small amount
- Yarn needle (tapestry needle)
- Stitch markers
- Brown crochet thread for the nose (beige yarn can also be used)
- Black thread for the eyebrows and eyelashes
- Scissors

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

MR: magic ring. ch: chain. sc: single crochet. hdc: half double crochet. dc: double crochet. tr: triple 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.

LEGS (make 2)

Work the first 5 rounds in beige 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 MR (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: With brown crochet thread (or beige yarn), embroider a V for the nose starting at Rnd 41, centered between the eyes, with 3 stitches between the outer points of the V and 2 stitches in from each eye. Then work a straight line down from the center of the V, covering 2 rounds.

Cheeks: With pink yarn, work each cheek one round below and one stitch to the outer side of each eye, covering a span of 2 stitches.

EARS (make 2 front pieces and 2 back pieces)

FRONT (make 2)

Work Rnds 1-3 in pink, then change to white.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

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

Change to white after Rnd 3.

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

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

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

BACK (make 2)

Work all rounds in white.

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)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Place one front piece and one back piece with their wrong sides facing each other and sew them together. Pinch the sides together at one end and sew to form the shape of the ear. Leave the tail for sewing the ear to the head.

ARMS (make 2)

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

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: 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.

FLOWERS (make 5)

Make a magic ring. Work inside the ring: [2 dc, sl st] x 5. This makes 5 petals. Pull the ring tight and slip stitch to the first petal to close. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

LEAVES (make 2)

Work inside a magic ring: sc, hdc, dc, tr, ch 1, tr, dc, hdc, sc. Pull the ring tight to close and secure. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

TAIL

Cut 2 strands of beige yarn and 1 strand of white yarn, each about 6 inches (15 cm) long. Using your crochet hook, pull the strands through a center stitch on the back of the lamb. Pull the ends through the loop and pull tight. Braid the tail to your desired length and knot to secure. Trim any excess.

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. Work the nose and cheeks. Embroider the V nose at Rnd 41 and the straight line below it, then work the pink cheeks one round below and one stitch to the outer side of each eye.

3. Attach the ears. Sew each joined ear to the head at Rnd 41, one on each side of the head.

4. Attach the arms. Sew the arms to the body at Rnd 27, centered with the head.

5. Attach the flower crown. Sew the 5 flowers and 2 leaves as a crown between the ears across the head. Hold each piece in place with sewing pins first to find the placement you like.

6. Attach the tail. Make the braided tail as described above on the back of the lamb.

7. 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 lamb 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 lamb to a child, and do not add beads or buttons, which can also come loose.

TIPS FOR A NEAT LAMB

- 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, arms and flowers in place first and look at the lamb from the front. It is easy to move a pin; it is hard to move a sewn seam.

VARIATIONS

- Boy lamb with a bow tie: leave off the flower crown and add a small bow tie at the neck instead. The designer suggests a bow tie like the one on her Berry Patch Bunny.
- Furrier lamb: work the white parts in Bernat Pipsqueak instead of smooth worsted yarn. The fluffy yarn looks like real wool. The stitches are harder to see, so count carefully and trust your stitch marker.
- A gift set: make two lambs, one with a flower crown and one with a bow tie, 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 Lamb Pattern, Lily the Lamb, https://www.graceandyarn.com/2020/03/free-mini-crochet-lamb-pattern.html

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