CROCHET LION: BEAUTIFUL 8 INCH LION WITH A FLUFFY LOOP MANE

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

About 8 inches (20 cm) tall sitting, or 11 inches (28 cm) tall standing, using super bulky (#6) yarn and a 4.0 mm hook. Sizes are approximate and will vary a little with your yarn and tension.

SKILL LEVEL

Advanced beginner. The source pattern classifies this lion as advanced beginner and says it helps to have had some experience with amigurumi before creating this project. You need a magic ring, single crochet, increases, invisible decreases, chain stitches and slip stitches, and you need to work in the front loops only and the back loops only for the mane rounds of the head. 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 in super bulky yarn: allow a few relaxed evenings, a little longer the first time. That time is an estimate, not a source fact.

MATERIALS

- Super bulky (#6) yarn, Premier Yarns Parfait Chunky, color A yellow, 90 yards: body, head, legs and arms
- Super bulky (#6) yarn, Premier Yarns Parfait Chunky, color B cream, 21 yards: muzzle, paws and lower legs
- Super bulky (#6) yarn, Premier Yarns Parfait Chunky, color C brown, 27 yards: mane, nose and nails
- 4.0 mm crochet hook (the pattern instructions say 4.0 mm, while the top of the source page lists a 5.0 mm hook)
- 12 mm safety eyes, 1 pair
- Poly-fil stuffing, a small amount
- Yarn needle (tapestry needle)
- Stitch markers
- Scissors

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

MR: magic ring. ch: chain. sc: single crochet. sl st: slip stitch. inc: increase (2 sc in the same stitch). SC2tog: single crochet 2 stitches together (invisible decrease is recommended). st(s): stitch(es). Rnd: round. FLO: front loops only. BLO: back loops 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. The source pattern gives no gauge: checking your gauge is not required for this pattern. Use a hook that is smaller than the size recommended for your yarn weight so the stuffing does not show through. All pieces, with the exception of the tail, are worked in the round. Body, head, legs and arms require stuffing: stuff each piece as you work to ensure the piece is completely filled. Do not add stuffing to the ears.

BODY

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

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: 2 sc 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 the yarn, leaving a long strand for sewing. Fasten off. Fill with stuffing.

HEAD

Start with color B (cream) for the muzzle, then change to color A (yellow).

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around (12)

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

Rnd 4: sc in each st around (18)

Change to color A (yellow) after Rnd 4.

Rnd 5-6: sc in each st around (18), 2 rounds

Rnd 7: [inc, 2 sc] x 3, sc in each of the next 9 sts (21). Note: the 3 increase repeats use 9 stitches and make 12, plus 9 plain stitches, so 21 in total.

Rnd 8: [inc, 3 sc] x 3, sc in each of the next 9 sts (24). Note: the 3 increase repeats use 12 stitches and make 15, plus 9 plain stitches, so 24 in total.

Rnd 9: [inc, 4 sc] x 3, sc in each of the next 9 sts (27). Note: the 3 increase repeats use 15 stitches and make 18, plus 9 plain stitches, so 27 in total.

Rnd 10: [inc, 5 sc] x 3, sc in each of the next 9 sts (30). Note: the 3 increase repeats use 18 stitches and make 21, plus 9 plain stitches, so 30 in total.

Rnd 11: [inc, 4 sc] x 3, add a stitch marker to the last worked stitch, then [inc, 4 sc] x 3 (36). Note: the first 3 repeats use 15 stitches and make 18, and the second 3 repeats use the other 15 stitches and make 18, so 36 in total. The added stitch marker and the stitch marker at the beginning of this round help to show the front sides of the face. The first sequence of stitches between the first and second stitch markers is the top of the head. The second sequence of stitches between the second and first stitch markers is the bottom of the head. If using safety eyes, insert the eyes between Rnds 8 and 9, with 7 stitches between them. You can now remove your second stitch marker.

Change to color C (brown) after Rnd 11.

Rnd 12: sc in each st around (36)

Rnd 13-14: working in the back loops only, sc in each st around (36), 2 rounds

Change to color A (yellow) after Rnd 14.

Rnd 15: working in the back loops only, [SC2tog, 4 sc] x 6 (30)

Rnd 16: [SC2tog, 3 sc] x 6 (24)

At this point move on to the mane, as it is a bit easier to crochet before the head is stuffed.

Rnd 17: sc in each st around (24)

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

Fill the head with stuffing.

Rnd 19: [SC2tog, sc] x 6 (12)

Rnd 20: SC2tog x 6 (6)

Cut the 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.

MANE

Work with color C (brown).

Attach the yarn to the head at the first unworked stitch of Rnd 12, where your first round of color C brown started.

Working in the unworked front loops from Rnds 12 to 14: [ch 8, sl st into each of the next 2 sts] and repeat around. Note: the source pattern gives no repeat count for the mane, so none is given here. Work one chain 8 loop for every 2 front loop stitches, all the way around the front loops of Rnds 12 to 14.

Fasten off. Weave in the ends.

EARS (make 2)

Work with color A (yellow). Do not add stuffing to the ears.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around (12)

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

Rnd 5: Fold the ear closed. Working through both sides, sc in each st across, leaving 1 unworked stitch on each side (5). Note: the closing count of 5 is as the source pattern states it.

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

LEGS (make 2)

Start with color B (cream), then change to color A (yellow).

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around (12)

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

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

Change to color A (yellow) after Rnd 4.

Rnd 5-6: sc in each st around (24), 2 rounds

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

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

Rnd 10: [SC2tog, 7 sc] x 2 (16). Note: the repeat uses 9 stitches and makes 8, and 2 repeats use 18 stitches and make 16.

Rnd 11-14: sc in each st around (16), 4 rounds

Fill with stuffing.

Rnd 15: Fold the leg closed. Working through both sides, sc in each st across, leaving 1 unworked stitch on each side (7). Note: the closing count of 7 is as the source pattern states it.

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

ARMS (make 2)

Start with color B (cream), then change to color A (yellow).

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: 2 sc in each st around (12)

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

Change to color A (yellow) after Rnd 3.

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

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

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

Fill with stuffing.

Rnd 13: Fold the arm closed. Working through both sides, sc in each st across, leaving 1 unworked stitch on each side (5). Note: the closing count of 5 is as the source pattern states it.

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

TAIL

Work the tail in two parts. Start with color A (yellow).

Rnd 1: Ch 5, turn, 1 sc in the second ch from the hook and each ch to the end (4)

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

Then work with color C (brown). Join the yarn to the end of the tail.

Rnd 1: Ch 10, bring the ends of the ch together and sl st into the end of the tail, creating a loop. Do not fasten off.

Rnd 2: Ch 10, bring the ends of the ch together and sl st into the end of the tail, creating a loop. Do not fasten off.

Rnd 3: Ch 10, bring the ends of the ch together and sl st into the end of the tail, creating a loop.

Cut the yarn, fasten off, and weave in the ends.

ASSEMBLY

1. Place the eyes. Insert the 12 mm safety eyes between Rnds 8 and 9 of the head, with 7 stitches between them, before you finish stuffing the head.

2. Work the nose. Using color C (brown), embroider a nose between Rnds 3 and 4 of the head, across approximately 5 stitches. Embroider a line down from the middle of the nose.

3. Attach the ears. Attach each ear between the first and second rounds of the mane, with approximately 7 stitches between each ear.

4. Attach the head to the body. Attach the head to the body so that the nose is facing straight out, attaching the body to approximately Rnds 13 to 16 of the bottom of the head. Tuck any pieces of the mane inside of the body that will be covered.

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

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

7. Attach the tail. Attach the tail to the back of the body between Rnds 5 and 6.

8. Embroider the nails. Using color C (brown), embroider 3 nails on each arm, over Rnds 3 and 4, leaving about 2 stitches between each nail. Using color C (brown), embroider 3 nails on each leg, over Rnds 4 to 6, leaving about 2 stitches between each nail. To do so, using a tapestry needle, thread the yarn through and wrap around the designated stitch one time.

9. 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 and noses 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 lion to a child, and do not add beads or buttons, which can also come loose.

TIPS FOR A NEAT LION

- 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.
- Do the mane before you stuff the head. The source pattern says the mane is a bit easier to crochet before the head is stuffed, so work the chain loops after Rnd 16 and before you fill the head.
- 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, with 7 stitches between them between Rnds 8 and 9.
- Pin before you sew. Pin the ears, arms, legs, head and tail in place first and look at the lion from the front. It is easy to move a pin; it is hard to move a sewn seam.

VARIATIONS

- Bigger lion in plush yarn: use a yarn like Premier Yarns Parfait Chunky and a comparable hook size for a larger plush lion. The designer shows a larger lion made this way.
- Lioness without the mane: leave off the brown mane and work the head in yellow and cream only. The same face, ears and body make a sweet lioness.
- Try different yarns for the mane: a different yarn for the mane gives your lion a different look. A fluffy yarn makes the mane look even fuller.
- A gift set: make two lions, one with a mane and one without, and sit them together on a shelf. They work up quickly in super bulky yarn, so a pair is a comfortable project for a gift.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Nicole Chase: FREE Lion Crochet Pattern, Landon the Lion, https://www.thenicolechase.com/patterns/landon-the-lion

---

CrochetRooms - for personal use. Do not copy, redistribute, or sell this pattern as your own.