CROCHET RACCOON: SWEET MASKED AMIGURUMI FRIEND

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Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

About 5.5 inches (about 14 cm) tall sitting, or 7.5 inches (about 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, invisible decreases, chain stitches, slip stitches, and simple color changes. Everything else is explained below.

TIME

Allow a few relaxed evenings. Each small piece works up in one sitting. The head takes the longest, because of the eye patch colorwork.

MATERIALS

- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn in light gray, about 72 yards: body, head, legs, arms, tail, ears
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn in white, about 7 yards: muzzle area of the head, ear tips
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn in dark gray, about 38 yards: eye patches, feet, paws, tail rings
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn in black, about 1 yard: embroidered nose
- 4.0 mm crochet hook
- Black safety eyes, 9 mm, 1 pair
- Polyester stuffing, a small amount
- Yarn needle
- Stitch marker
- Scissors
- Straight pins, for pinning pieces before sewing

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

MR: magic ring. ch: chain. sc: single 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.

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. No gauge is given for this pattern. Use a hook smaller than the size recommended for your yarn so the stuffing does not show through. Color key: A = light gray, B = white, C = dark gray, D = black. Use invisible color changes for the legs, arms, ears, and tail, and a standard color change for the eye patches on the head, so the mask edges stay sharp.

BODY (color A, light gray)

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

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

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

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

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Fill with stuffing.

HEAD (colors B, C, A)

Work the white muzzle first, then the dark gray eye patches in Rnds 6 to 10, then finish in light gray.

Rnd 1 (B): 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2 (B): inc in each st around (12)

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

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

Rnd 6: With C: sc in each of the next 7 sts. With A: sc in each of the next 11 sts. (18)

Rnd 7: With C: inc in the next st, sc in each of the next 2 sts. With A: inc in the next st. With C: sc in each of the next 2 sts, inc in the next st. With A: sc in each of the next 11 sts. (21)

Rnd 8: With C: inc in the next st, sc in each of the next 3 sts. With A: inc in the next st, sc in the next st. With C: sc in each of the next 2 sts, inc in the next st, sc in the next st. With A: sc in each of the next 11 sts. (24)

Rnd 9: With A: sc in the first st. With C: inc in the next st, sc in each of the next 4 sts. With A: inc in the next st, sc in each of the next 3 sts. With C: sc in the next st, inc in the next st, sc in each of the next 2 sts. With A: sc in each of the next 10 sts. (27)

Rnd 10: With A: inc in the next st. With C: sc in each of the next 5 sts. With A: inc in the next st, sc in each of the next 5 sts. With C: inc in the next st, sc in each of the next 3 sts. With A: sc in

each of the next 11 sts. (30)

Rnd 11 (A): [4 sc, inc] x 6 (36)

Rnd 12-14 (A): sc in each st around (36), 3 rounds

Rnd 15 (A): [4 sc, dec] x 6 (30)

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

Rnd 17 (A): sc in each st around (24)

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

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

Fill the head with stuffing.

Rnd 20 (A): dec x 6 (6). Fasten off and close by weaving the tail through the front loops of the last 6 stitches and pulling gently.

Insert the safety eyes between Rnd 8 and Rnd 9 of each eye patch, with about 1 stitch of white on the inside of each side, so about 5 to 6 stitches sit between the two eyes. Check from the front that the eyes sit level before you press the washers on firmly from the inside.

EARS (make 2)

Start with color B (white) for the tips, then change to color A (light gray). Do not stuff the ears.

Rnd 1 (B): 4 sc in MR (4)

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

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

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

Rnd 5-7 (A): sc in each st around (12), 3 rounds

Rnd 8 (A): Fold the ear closed, leaving 1 unworked stitch at the beginning of the fold. Working through both sides, sc in each st across (5). Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

LEGS (make 2)

Start with color C (dark gray) for the feet, then change to color A (light gray). Fill with stuffing as you work.

Rnd 1 (C): 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2 (C): inc in each st around (12)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fill with stuffing.

Rnd 16 (A): Fold the leg closed. Working through both sides, sc in each st across, leaving 1 unworked stitch on each side (7). Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

ARMS (make 2)

Start with color C (dark gray) for the paws, then change to color A (light gray). Fill with stuffing as you work.

Rnd 1 (C): 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2 (C): inc in each st around (12)

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

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

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

Rnd 7-8 (C): sc in each st around (12), 2 rounds

Rnd 9-13 (A): sc in each st around (12), 5 rounds

Fill with stuffing.

Rnd 14 (A): Fold the arm closed. Working through both sides, sc in each st across, leaving 1 unworked stitch on each side (5). Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

TAIL

Alternate dark gray (C) and light gray (A) to make the rings. Fill with stuffing as you work.

Rnd 1 (C): 4 sc in MR (4)

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

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

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

Rnd 5 (A): [3 sc, inc] x 3 (15)

Rnd 6 (C): [4 sc, inc] x 3 (18)

Rnd 7 (C): sc in each st around (18)

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

Rnd 10 (C): [4 sc, dec] x 3 (15)

Rnd 11 (C): sc in each st around (15)

Rnd 12 (A): [3 sc, dec] x 3 (12)

Rnd 13 (A): sc in each st around (12)

Rnd 14-15 (C): sc in each st around (12), 2 rounds

Fill with stuffing.

Rnd 16 (C): Fold the tail closed, leaving 1 unworked stitch at the beginning of the fold. Working through both sides, sc in each st across (5). Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

ASSEMBLY

Pin every piece in place before you sew, and check the raccoon from the front and the side so the face sits straight.

1. Embroider the nose. With color D (black) yarn and a yarn needle, embroider a nose between Rnd 3 and Rnd 4 of the head, over about 3 stitches. Work the stitches close together so the nose looks solid, then hide the yarn ends inside the head.

2. Attach the ears. Attach the bottom of each ear in a C shape, so the tips of each ear sit between Rnd 12 and Rnd 13 of the head, and the back of the ear sits between Rnd 13 and Rnd 14. Leave about 7 stitches between the two ears.

3. Attach the head to the body. Sew the head to the body so the snout faces straight out, attaching the body to about Rnds 11 to 16 of the bottom of the head.

4. Attach the legs. Sew the legs between Rnd 4 and Rnd 5 of the body, with the inside ends of the two legs touching in the middle, so the raccoon sits upright.

5. 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 12 stitches between the two arms across the front of the body. At the bottom, leave about 17 stitches between them.

6. Attach the tail. Sew the tail between Rnd 5 and Rnd 6 of the back of the body, so it rests behind the raccoon and shows the rings from the side.

7. Finish. Weave in all loose ends with the yarn needle, hiding them inside the body or the head so they do not show. Hold the raccoon up and check the ears sit level, the mask is straight, and the tail shows its rings.

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 raccoon a small child will play with, embroider the eyes with black yarn instead: stitch two small vertical ovals in the same position, between Rnd 8 and Rnd 9 of each eye patch, about 5 to 6 stitches apart. Check every part is secure before giving the raccoon to a child, and do not add beads or buttons, which can also come loose.

TIPS FOR A NEAT RACCOON

- Count at the end of the increase rounds. The body and head both grow by 6 stitches on every increase 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.
- Mark the first stitch of every round. The pieces are worked in a continuous spiral, so it is easy to lose your place without a marker.
- Stuff as you go. Fill the body, head, legs, arms, and tail a little at a time so the shape stays smooth. Do not stuff the ears.
- Use a standard color change for the eye patches, so the mask edges stay sharp, and invisible color changes everywhere else, so the stripes stay neat.

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