CROCHET SNAKE: BEAUTIFUL EARTH TONE PLUSH IN 101 SIMPLE ROUNDS

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

About 18 to 20 in (46 to 51 cm) long when stretched out straight. The head is about 30 stitches around at its widest point, the neck is 15 stitches around, the body is 18 stitches around, and the tail tapers to a point.

SKILL LEVEL

Confident Beginner to Intermediate. You need a magic ring, single crochet, increases, and invisible decreases, all worked in continuous rounds. There is no sewing in the solid version, apart from the optional felt tongue.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. The body is 54 even rounds with no shaping, so most crocheters finish it in a few relaxed evenings.

MATERIALS

- Worsted weight (#4) yarn, about 100 to 120 yards for a solid color snake. For the striped version: 80 yards of the main color and 40 yards of the contrast color. The source pattern recommends acrylic or a cotton blend for easy care and stitch definition. Suggested colors: burnt orange or rust, mustard gold, sage green, or cream with rust stripes.
- 3.5 mm (E/4) crochet hook. Use a slightly smaller hook than usually recommended for worsted weight yarn, so the fabric is tight and the stuffing does not show through.
- 6 mm black safety eyes, one pair per snake
- Polyester fiberfill stuffing
- Stitch marker
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Optional: a small piece of red or pink felt for the forked tongue, and black yarn for embroidered nostrils

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

ch: chain. dec: invisible decrease. inc: increase, 2 single crochet in the same stitch. MR: magic ring. sc: single crochet. sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es).

NOTES

This pattern is written in US crochet terms. Work in continuous rounds: do not join rounds with a slip stitch unless instructed. Use a stitch marker to track the beginning of each round and move it up as you go. Stuff as you go, adding small amounts of fiberfill every 10 to 15 rounds and pushing it down with a chopstick or pencil, because a long tube is much harder to stuff after it is closed. Stuff firmly but not rock hard, so the snake stays flexible enough to pose and curl.

GAUGE

4 sc and 4 rows measure about 1 in (2.5 cm). More importantly, your fabric should be tight enough that you cannot see through it when held up to the light. If you see gaps, go down a hook size.

HEAD

Round 1: Make a magic ring, work 6 sc into the ring. Pull tight to close. (6 sts)

Round 2: Inc in each st around. (12 sts)

Round 3: *Sc 1, inc* repeat around. (18 sts)

Round 4: *Sc 2, inc* repeat around. (24 sts)

Round 5: *Sc 3, inc* repeat around. (30 sts)

Rounds 6-10: Sc in each st around. (30 sts) Work 5 rounds even.

Insert the safety eyes between Rounds 7 and 8. Position them about 8 to 10 stitches apart, centered on what will be the face, on the wider part of the head. Pin them first to preview the position before you commit, because the backings are permanent once they click on.

Round 11: *Sc 3, dec* repeat around. (24 sts)

Round 12: Sc in each st around. (24 sts)

Round 13: *Sc 2, dec* repeat around. (18 sts)

Begin stuffing the head firmly at this point. You want a nice plump shape but not so tight that it distorts the stitches.

Round 14: *Sc 4, dec* repeat around. (15 sts)

NECK

Rounds 15-20: Sc in each st around. (15 sts) Work 6 rounds even. The neck is slightly narrower than the head, which makes the cute snake silhouette. Add more stuffing as you go.

BODY

Round 21: *Sc 4, inc* repeat around. (18 sts)

Rounds 22-75: Sc in each st around. (18 sts) Work 54 rounds even. Keep stuffing every 10 to 15 rounds as you go.

TAIL

Round 76: *Sc 4, dec* repeat around. (15 sts)

Rounds 77-82: Sc in each st around. (15 sts) Work 6 rounds even.

Round 83: *Sc 3, dec* repeat around. (12 sts)

Rounds 84-89: Sc in each st around. (12 sts) Work 6 rounds even.

Round 90: *Sc 2, dec* repeat around. (9 sts)

Rounds 91-96: Sc in each st around. (9 sts) Work 6 rounds even.

Round 97: *Sc 1, dec* repeat around. (6 sts)

Rounds 98-100: Sc in each st around. (6 sts) Work 3 rounds even.

Finish stuffing the tail. The tip should be lightly stuffed so it stays flexible.

Round 101: Dec 3 times. (3 sts)

Fasten off. Cut a 6 in (15 cm) tail. Thread through the remaining stitches, pull tight to close, and weave in the end securely.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends using a yarn needle. Bury tails inside the stuffed body for a clean look. Shape your snake by gently bending and curling the body: the tight single crochet fabric holds curves nicely.

Optional tongue: cut a small piece of red or pink felt, snip a V shape at one end, and hand stitch it just below the magic ring center point.

Optional nostrils: embroider them with a few small stitches of black yarn.

STRIPED VARIATION

Work the head in Color A (cream) through Round 10. Then alternate colors every 4 rounds throughout the body section. Color B is rust. To change color cleanly, work the last stitch before the change until you have two loops on your hook, drop Color A, pick up Color B, and pull through both loops. Carry the unused color loosely along the inside of your work. The stripes make a slight zigzag because you are working in a spiral: this is a charming feature, not a flaw.

CUSTOMIZING

- Make it longer: add more body rounds. Each additional 10 rounds adds roughly 2 in (5 cm).
- Make it chunkier: use a 4 mm hook and bulky weight yarn, and adjust the eye size to 8 or 9 mm.
- Make it tiny: use fingering weight yarn and a 2.5 mm hook, and use 4 mm eyes. Perfect for keychains.
- Add personality: embroider eyebrows, add felt spots, or put a small jingle bell in the tail before closing.

CARE

The source pattern gives no care instructions. Treat the snake gently: spot clean with mild detergent and lay flat to dry. Do not bleach.

TIPS FOR A NEAT SNAKE

- Keep your tension even. If your first few rounds are tighter than your body section, the head will look noticeably different.
- Use invisible decreases. The traditional decrease leaves visible bumps, while front loop only decreases lay flat and blend into the surrounding fabric.
- Stuff as you go. Wrestling fiberfill through a tiny opening is frustrating and usually gives uneven stuffing.
- Secure the safety eyes before closing. Once those plastic backings click on, the eyes are permanent, so double check the placement before committing.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Made With Sally: Cozy Earth Tone Snake Plush Free Crochet Pattern, https://madewithsally.com/cozy-earth-tone-snake-plush-free-crochet-pattern/

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