CROCHET TEDDY BEAR: A BEAUTIFUL 12-INCH AMIGURUMI BEAR

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

Finished height | About 12 in (30 cm) tall

The source pattern gives the height only. No width, sitting height, or other finished measurements are given, so none are listed here.

SKILL LEVEL

Easy. The designer calls it Easyish. You need chains, crossed single crochet, increases, decreases, working in continuous rounds, and basic sewing with a yarn needle. The stitches are simple; the amigurumi skills are keeping a tight fabric, stuffing as you go, and sewing the pieces on neatly.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. A plush bear in bulky velvet yarn works up fast: allow a relaxed weekend, a little longer the first time. That estimate is NOT a source fact; do not quote it as one.

MATERIALS

- Bulky weight (#5) velvet or chenille yarn. The sample is made with Luxe Velour by Juicy Couture.
- Color A (sample: Frothy Fawn, a warm tan): about 185 yds (169 m)
- Color B (sample: Angel, a cream white): about 12 yds (11 m)
- Total yarn: about 197 yds (180 m)
- A very small amount of thinner black yarn and white yarn for the facial features
- 4.0 mm (G) crochet hook
- Long yarn needle
- Polyester fiberfill stuffing

- Stitch markers
- Pins
- Scissors
- 2 animal safety eyes, 15 mm
- 1 animal safety nose, 15 mm

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

BLO: back loop only. ch: chain. CSC: crossed single crochet (insert hook, yarn UNDER, draw yarn through stitch so 2 loops are on the hook, yarn over, draw through both loops). dec: decrease (insert hook into the front loop only of the next st, then into the front loop only of the following st, yarn UNDER, draw yarn through so 2 loops are on the hook, yarn over, draw through both loops). FLO: front loop only. inc: increase (2 CSC in the same st). MC: magic circle. rep: repeat. rnd(s): round(s). sc: single crochet. sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es).

NOTES

This pattern uses US crochet terms. The whole bear is worked in crossed single crochet (CSC), not plain single crochet: every stitch in the rounds below is a CSC unless the round says sl st. Work in continuous spiral rounds: do not join rounds with a slip stitch unless the instructions say so. Keep a stitch marker in the first stitch of every round so you do not lose your place. When the pattern says a number followed by a stitch (for example "5 CSC"), work one CSC in each of the next 5 stitches, not 5 CSC in one stitch. Repeats are shown in parentheses: work everything inside the parentheses, then repeat it. When you change color, finish the last step of the stitch before the change with the new color. Yarn, hook size, and gauge are only a guide: this bear works in any yarn if you use a hook smaller than the yarn label suggests, for a tight fabric that hides the stuffing, but your yarn amounts and finished size will change. Gauge: 18 CSC x 20 rows = 4 in (10 cm) square. Crochet tightly so the stuffing does not show through the stitches. Safety eyes and a safety nose are NOT safe for a child under 3: for a baby gift, embroider the eyes and nose instead. That safety note is general amigurumi advice, not a statement from the source pattern.

ARMS (make 2)

Work with Color A. Begin with ch 6.

Rnd 1: Starting in the 2nd ch from the hook, and working into only the back loop of each chain stitch, inc, 3 CSC, inc. Working around the chain to the other side, inc, 3 CSC, inc. (14 sts)

Rnd 2: Inc, 5 CSC, inc, inc, 5 CSC, inc. (18 sts)

Rnds 3-8: CSC in each st around. (18 sts)

Rnd 9: Dec, 16 CSC. (17 sts)

Rnd 10: Dec, 15 CSC. (16 sts)

Rnd 11: Dec, 14 CSC. (15 sts)

Rnd 12: Dec, 13 CSC. (14 sts)

Rnd 13: Dec, 12 CSC. (13 sts)

Rnd 14: Dec, 11 CSC. (12 sts)

Rnd 15: Dec, 10 CSC. (11 sts)

Rnd 16: Dec, 9 CSC. (10 sts)

To finish: Stuff lightly, then CSC closed by holding the sides of the opening together and working through both sets of corresponding loops across. (5 CSC) Fasten off and hide the ends inside. Set the arms aside for later.

LEGS (make 2)

Begin with Color B. Make a magic circle, ch 1.

Rnd 1: 7 CSC in MC. (7 sts)

Rnd 2: Inc in each st around. (14 sts)

Rnd 3: (Inc, CSC) around. (21 sts)

Rnd 4: (CSC, inc, CSC) around. (28 sts)

Switch to Color A. Fasten off Color B.

Rnd 5: With a loose tension, sl st in BLO of each st around. (28 sts)

Rnd 6: In BLO, (3 CSC, inc, 3 CSC) around. (32 sts)

Rnds 7-8: CSC in each st around. (32 sts)

Rnd 9: (3 CSC, dec, 3 CSC) around. (28 sts)

Rnd 10: 10 CSC, 4 dec, 10 CSC. (24 sts)

Rnd 11: 8 CSC, 4 dec, 8 CSC. (20 sts)

Rnds 12-22: CSC in each st around. (20 sts)

Fasten off. Add stuffing: stuff the bottom part of the leg quite densely, then lightly stuff the narrower part and leave about 0.5 in

(1.3 cm) at the top completely unstuffed. This helps the legs stay flexible. Continue on to the body.

BODY

To begin: Place the legs side by side, fronts facing away from you. On the inner sides that sit closest together, locate the centermost stitch on each leg. With Color A, join the legs together by joining yarn through the top loops of BOTH opposing stitches, ch 1.

Rnd 1: CSC in the same st as your ch 1 on the left leg, and moving clockwise, CSC in each remaining st around the left leg (20 CSC). Continue to the right leg, and CSC again in the same st as your initial ch 1; continue to CSC in each st around the right leg (20 CSC). (40 sts)

Note: When you come to the part on each leg that has the drop-off created by the end of the final round, simply CSC until the drop-off and continue immediately to the next unworked stitch after it. Pretend the drop-off is not even there.

Rnd 2: In FLO for this round only, (inc, 3 CSC) around. (50 sts)

Rnds 3-11: CSC in each st around. (50 sts)

Rnd 12: (4 CSC, dec, 4 CSC) around. (45 sts)

Rnd 13: CSC in each st around. (45 sts)

Rnd 14: (Dec, 7 CSC) around. (40 sts)

Rnd 15: CSC in each st around. (40 sts)

Rnd 16: (3 CSC, dec, 3 CSC) around. (35 sts)

Rnd 17: CSC in each st around. (35 sts)

Rnd 18: (Dec, 5 CSC) around. (30 sts)

Stuff. Then, along Rnd 18, use stitch markers to mark 4 or 5 sts for each arm (depending on how many sts you used to seam the arms).

Rnd 19: CSC in each st around, attaching the arms as you go by inserting the hook into the corresponding st on the arm AND the body. (30 sts)

Rnd 20: (Dec, 3 CSC) around. (24 sts)

Do not fasten off: the head continues directly from the body.

HEAD

Rnd 21: In FLO for this round only, (CSC, inc, CSC) around. (32 sts)

Rnd 22: (Inc, 3 CSC) around. (40 sts)

Rnd 23: (2 CSC, inc, 2 CSC) around. (48 sts)

Rnd 24: (Inc, 11 CSC) around. (52 sts)

Rnds 25-35: CSC in each st around. (52 sts)

Pause and add the eyes between Rnds 31 and 32. Place them 8 stitches apart.

Rnd 36: (Dec, 11 CSC) around. (48 sts)

Rnd 37: (2 CSC, dec, 2 CSC) around. (40 sts)

Rnd 38: (Dec, 3 CSC) around. (32 sts)

Rnd 39: (CSC, dec, CSC) around. (24 sts)

Stuff here, and continue to add stuffing as desired until you close it up.

Rnd 40: (Dec, CSC) around. (16 sts)

Rnd 41: Dec around. (8 sts)

To finish: Fasten off with a long tail. Thread the tail through a yarn needle and weave the needle in and out of the outer loops of the previous round, all the way around. Slowly pull the circle closed. (Be careful if you are using single-ply yarn, it breaks easily!) Tie a knot, then hide the knot and tail inside the head.

SNOUT (make 1)

To begin: With Color B, ch 4.

Rnd 1: Starting in the 2nd ch from the hook, and working into only the back loop of each chain stitch, inc, CSC, inc. Working around to the other side of the chain, and working in the unworked loops of each chain stitch, inc, CSC, inc. (10 sts)

Rnd 2: 2 inc, CSC, 4 inc, CSC, 2 inc. (18 sts)

Rnd 3: Inc, CSC, inc, 2 CSC, (inc, CSC) 4 times, CSC, inc, CSC, inc, CSC. (26 sts)

Rnds 4-5: CSC in each st around. (26 sts)

To finish: Sl st in the next st. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. Weave in the starting tail.

MOUTH AND NOSE

Use thin black yarn to draw the mouth, using the photos on the source page for reference.

- Vertical line starts between Rnds 2 and 3 above the middle of the snout, and ends between Rnds 1 and 2 below the middle of the snout.
- Horizontal line is actually two lines beginning from 2 stitches to the right and left of the bottom of the vertical line, and meeting at the bottom of the vertical line.
- Safety nose is inserted at the top of the vertical line.

Secure the tails and trim so they can be hidden inside the snout.

ATTACHING THE SNOUT

Use pins to hold the snout in place, if desired.

- Top of snout should be just slightly above the bottom of the eyes.
- Sides of snout should be just about lined up with the outer edges of the eyes.
- Bottom of snout should be just a round or two above the crease of the neck.

Use the finishing tail to sew the snout to the face. Add stuffing when halfway around, and continue to add stuffing as desired until finished. Knot and hide the finishing tail inside the head.

EARS (make 2)

To begin: With Color A, ch 4.

Rnds 1-3: Follow the instructions for Rnds 1-3 of the snout.

(10, 18, 26 sts)

Rnd 4: (2 CSC, inc) 2 times, CSC, (2 CSC, inc) 4 times, CSC, (2 CSC, inc) 2 times. (34 sts)

Rnds 5-6: CSC in each st around. (34 sts)

To finish: Sl st in each of the next 2 sts, remove the hook. Secure and trim the starting tail, then CSC the ear closed by folding it in half along the starting chain, and working through both sets of corresponding loops across. (17 CSC) Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

ATTACHING THE EARS

Use pins to hold the ears in place, if desired. Sew the seamed side of the ears to the head in the desired placement. When finished, knot and hide the tail inside the head.

- The ears should be toward the lower part of the top left and top right quadrants of the head.
- Ears should be placed about halfway back on the head, in line with the middle of the arm below them.

TAIL (make 1)

To begin: With Color A, make a magic circle, ch 1.

Rnd 1: 6 CSC in MC. (6 sts)

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

Rnds 3-5: CSC in each st around. (12 sts)

To finish: Sl st in the next st. Remove the hook; secure and trim the starting tail. Reinsert the hook and CSC the tail closed by holding the sides of the opening together, and working through both sets of corresponding loops across. (6 CSC) This is the same technique you used to seam the arms. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

ATTACHING THE TAIL

Use pins to hold the tail in place, if desired. Sew the tail to the back of the body. The top of the tail sits in line with Rnds 6-7 of the body. When finished, knot and hide the finishing tail inside the body.

SHAPING THE HEAD

Cut a long length of yarn (Color A) and thread it through a long yarn needle, then follow these steps carefully, using the photo on the source page as a guide.

- Insert the needle at the base of the neck (1), and pull it out at the lower right part of the first eye (2). When working near the eyes, try to get your needle as close to the eye as you can.
- Insert it into the lower left part of the same eye (3), and pull it out of the same spot at the base of the neck where you first inserted it (1).
- Move one stitch to the right (4) and insert the needle, then pull it out at the lower left part of the 2nd eye (5).
- Insert it into the lower right part of the same eye (6), and pull it out of the same spot at the base of the neck where you most recently

inserted it (4). You should now have two ends coming out of the base of the neck. Gently pull them at the same time until you are happy with the indentation of the eyes, then tie them in a knot and hide the knot inside the head.
Pulling on the yarn brings the eyes closer to the snout.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Adding the facial features is simply a matter of drawing with yarn. For each color, cut a long strand, insert it somewhere on the head, draw the desired lines, and exit out of the same place you entered. Tie the ends in a knot and hide the knot inside the head. Use the photos on the source page to guide you, or make it your own by experimenting with different placements. If you do not like what you do, just take it out and try again. With thin white yarn, add a small highlight next to each eye if you like; with thin black yarn, add eyebrows or eyelashes the same way.

FINISHING

Weave in all loose ends with the yarn needle, hiding them inside the stitches so they do not show. Check that both eyes and the nose are locked firmly in place, and that every seam is sewn closed.

CARE

The source pattern gives no care instructions. As general guidance for velvet and chenille yarns: hand wash gently in cold water and lay flat to dry. Do not bleach.
Reshape while damp. Keep away from a hot dryer: velvet and chenille yarns lose their soft pile in high heat.

TIPS FOR A NEAT TEDDY BEAR

- Work tightly. Use a hook smaller than the yarn label suggests, and check your gauge: 18 CSC x 20 rows = 4 in (10 cm). If the stuffing shows through, go down a hook size.
- Mark every round. Work in a spiral with no joins, so a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round is the only way to know where a round ends.

- Stuff the legs in two parts. Stuff the foot densely and the upper leg lightly, and leave the top 0.5 in (1.3 cm) empty so the legs stay flexible when you join them to the body.
- Place the eyes before you close the head. Add the 15 mm safety eyes between Rnds 31 and 32, 8 stitches apart, while the head is still open enough to fix the washers on the inside.
- Pin before you sew. Pin the snout, ears, and tail in place and look at the bear from the front before you sew anything: the snout top sits just above the bottom of the eyes, and the ears sit halfway back on the head.
- Shape the face last. The yarn sculpting under the eyes is what gives the bear its sweet expression, so do it after the snout and eyes are in place.

VARIATIONS

- Classic brown bear: work Color A in a warm chocolate brown with a cream snout, the timeless teddy look.
- White or pastel bear: work the whole bear in cream white or a soft pastel, with a pink bow or a small heart sewn on the belly.
- A gift set: make two bears in different colorways. Each one works up fast in bulky yarn, so a pair is a comfortable project for a gift.
- A smaller bear: use a DK weight yarn with a 3.0 mm hook and the same rounds. The bear will come out smaller, and you will need less yarn and smaller eyes; check the eye size against the head before you fix them in place.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Yarn and Chai: Amigurumi Teddy Bear, https://yarnandchai.com/amigurumi-teddy-bear/

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