CROCHET UNICORN: A MAGICAL AMIGURUMI WITH A FLUFFY MANE

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Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

About 10 inches (25 cm) tall from the tip of the horn to the bottoms of the legs, 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

Intermediate. You need a magic ring, single crochet, increases, decreases, chain stitches and slip stitches, and you need to join two legs into the body as you work. The mane and tail use faux fur yarn, which is harder to see than smooth yarn, so count carefully and trust your stitch marker.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. A 10 inch amigurumi with joined legs, a sewn mane and embroidered eyelashes is a weekend project for most crocheters: allow a few relaxed evenings, a little longer the first time.

MATERIALS

- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, WeCrochet Brava Worsted Speckle in Cake Pop, 105 yards (96 m), about 48 g: body, head, snout and ears
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, WeCrochet Brava Worsted in Rouge, 16 yards (15 m), about 7 g: hooves, lower legs and lower arms
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn, WeCrochet Brava Worsted in Canary, 7 yards (6.5 m), about 3 g: horn
- Faux fur yarn, WeCrochet Fable Fur in Volpe, 10 yards (9.5 m), about 13 g: mane and tail
- 3.5 mm crochet hook for the body
- 5.5 mm crochet hook for the faux fur mane and tail
- 12 mm blue safety eyes, 1 pair
- Polyester stuffing, a small amount
- Yarn needle
- Stitch markers
- Black embroidery thread for the eyelashes
- Scissors

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. BLO: back loop 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. Gauge is not vital for a toy, but it affects the finished size and how much yarn you need: with the Brava yarn and a 3.5 mm hook, 9 stitches and 11 rows make a 2 inch square; with the Fable Fur and a 5.5 mm hook, 4 stitches and 4 rows make a 2 inch square.

LEGS (make 2)

Work the first 6 rounds in Rouge for the hooves, then change to Cake Pop for the rest of the leg. Work Leg 1 first, fasten off with an invisible join, and set it aside. Work Leg 2 the same way but do NOT fasten off after Rnd 13: 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 4-6: sc in each st around (18), 3 rounds

Change to Cake Pop after Rnd 6: fasten off with an invisible join, then join Cake Pop to the first stitch of Rnd 6.

Rnd 7: working in BLO, sc in each st around (18). This round makes the neat line where the pink hoof meets the speckled leg.

Rnd 8-13: sc in each st around (18), 6 rounds

Place a marker in the first stitch of Rnd 13 of Leg 1 before you set it aside; you will need it to find the join in Body Rnd 1. After Rnd 13 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 Cake Pop and the 3.5 mm hook, starting from Leg 2.

Rnd 1: Ch 2, sc in the 1st st of Leg 1, sc 17, sc in each of the 2 ch, sc 18 around Leg 2 (40). Note: you work 38 single crochet stitches in this round, and the round counts 40 because the 2 bridge chains are included in the stitch count. Place your marker in the first chain of the chain 2 to mark the new first stitch of the round.

Rnd 2: sc in each ch and st around (40)

Rnd 3: [4 sc, inc] x 8 (48)

Rnd 4: sc in each st around (48)

Rnd 5: [6 sc, dec] x 6 (42)

Rnd 6-7: sc in each st around (42), 2 rounds

Rnd 8: [5 sc, dec] x 6 (36)

Rnd 9-11: sc in each st around (36), 3 rounds

Rnd 12: 2 sc, dec, [4 sc, dec] x 5, 2 sc (30)

Rnd 13-14: sc in each st around (30), 2 rounds

Rnd 15: [3 sc, dec] x 6 (24)

Rnd 16-18: sc in each st around (24), 3 rounds

Rnd 19: sc, dec, [2 sc, dec] x 5, sc (18)

Rnd 20: sc in each st around (18)

Rnd 21: sc, inc, [2 sc, inc] x 5, sc (24)

Rnd 22: [3 sc, inc] x 6 (30)

Rnd 23: 2 sc, inc, [4 sc, inc] x 5, 2 sc (36)

Rnd 24: [5 sc, inc] x 6 (42)

Rnd 25-35: sc in each st around (42), 11 rounds. Place the eyes in stitches 9 and 15 of Rnd 32.

Rnd 36: [5 sc, dec] x 6 (36)

Rnd 37: 2 sc, dec, [4 sc, dec] x 5, 2 sc (30)

Rnd 38: [3 sc, dec] x 6 (24)

Rnd 39: sc, dec, [2 sc, dec] x 5, sc (18)

Rnd 40: [sc, dec] x 6 (12)

Rnd 41: dec x 6 (6). Fasten off, weave the tail through the front loops of the last 6 stitches and pull gently to close. 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 19-21) firmly so the head does not flop.

SNOUT

Work with Cake Pop and the 3.5 mm hook.

Rnd 1: Ch 5. Inc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc 2, 5 sc in the last ch. Working up the other side of the chain, sc 2, 3 sc in the last ch (14)

Rnd 2: inc, sc 4, [inc] x 3, sc 4, [inc] x 2 (20)

Rnd 3-4: sc in each st around (20), 2 rounds

Fasten off with an invisible join, leaving a long tail for sewing. Sew the snout to the face, adding a little stuffing between the snout and the face as you sew.

ARMS (make 2)

Work the first 5 rounds in Rouge, then change to Cake Pop.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: inc in each st around (12)

Rnd 3-5: sc in each st around (12), 3 rounds. Start stuffing, adding a little more with each round.

Fasten off with an invisible join. Join Cake Pop to the first stitch of Rnd 5.

Rnd 6: working in BLO, sc in each st around (12). This round makes the neat line where the pink hoof meets the speckled arm.

Rnd 7-15: sc in each st around (12), 9 rounds

Rnd 16: dec x 6 (6)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Whip stitch the arm opening closed and sew one arm to each side of the body.

EARS (make 2)

Work with Cake Pop and the 3.5 mm hook. Do not stuff the ears.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2: sc in each st around (6)

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

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

Rnd 5-6: sc in each st around (12), 2 rounds

Rnd 7: [2 sc, dec] x 3 (9)

Rnd 8: [sc, dec] x 3 (6)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Flatten each ear and sew it to the top of the head.

HORN

Work with Canary and the 3.5 mm hook.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in MR (6)

Rnd 2-3: sc in each st around (6), 2 rounds

Rnd 4: [2 sc, inc] x 2 (8)

Rnd 5: sc in each st around (8)

Rnd 6: [sc, inc] x 4 (12)

Rnd 7-11: sc in each st around (12), 5 rounds

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Start stuffing the horn from Rnd 6 and add a little more as you go. Sew the horn to the top of the head.

MANE

Work with Fable Fur and the 5.5 mm hook. The stitches are hard to see in faux fur yarn, so count carefully and trust your stitch marker.

Rnd 1: Ch 18. The chain should measure about 7 inches (18 cm) long. Sc in the 7th ch from the hook, sc 10, 5 sc in the last ch. Working up the other side of the chain, sc 11, 6 sc around the loop (33)

Rnd 2: Sc 11, [inc] x 5, sc 11, join to the next st with a sl st (27 sts worked). Note: this round works 27 stitches and produces 32 stitches; 6 stitches of Rnd 1 stay unworked at the back of the loop, where the slip stitch join closes it.

Fasten off and weave in the ends. Place the mane loop around the base of the horn. Using a length of Cake Pop yarn, sew the mane to the head of the unicorn.

TAIL

Work with Fable Fur and the 5.5 mm hook.

Rnd 1: Ch 10. Inc in the 2nd ch from the hook, [inc] x 2, sc 6 (12)

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Sew the tail to the back of the body.

EYELASHES

Using black embroidery thread, embroider eyelashes next to each eye. Start in the stitch directly next to the centre side of each eye. Insert the needle into the stitch two stitches to the right and back up through the stitch you started in. Insert the needle into the stitch one stitch above and slightly to the side of the tip of the first eyelash. Repeat for the other eye.

ASSEMBLY

1. Place the eyes. Insert the 12 mm safety eyes in stitches 9 and 15 of Rnd 32 of the body and head, before you finish stuffing the head. Press the washers on firmly from the inside. Do not attach the backings until you are happy with the eye position.

2. Attach the horn. Sew the horn to the top of the head, above the eyes, with the horn upright.

3. Attach the ears. Sew one ear to the top of the head on each side of the horn, leaving about 3 to 4 stitches between the horn and each ear.

4. Attach the head to the body. The head and body are one piece, so this step is about shaping, not sewing: check the neck is stuffed firmly and the head sits upright with the nose facing straight out. The head widens from the neck at Rnd 21.

5. Attach the snout. Sew the snout to the face below the eyes, adding a little stuffing between the snout and the face as you sew.

6. Attach the arms. Whip stitch each arm opening closed, then sew one arm to each side of the body.

7. Attach the mane and tail. Place the mane loop around the base of the horn and sew it to the head with Cake Pop yarn. Sew the tail to the back of the body.

8. Embroider the eyelashes. Following the eyelash instructions above, embroider lashes beside each eye with black embroidery thread.

9. Finish. Weave in all loose ends with the yarn needle, hiding them inside the body or the head so they do not show. Brush the mane and tail gently with your fingers so the fur looks soft and full.

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 unicorn a small child will play with, embroider the eyes with black yarn instead: stitch two small vertical ovals in the same position, in stitches 9 and 15 of Rnd 32. Check every part is secure before giving the unicorn to a child, and do not add beads or buttons, which can also come loose.

TIPS FOR A NEAT UNICORN

- Count at the end of every increase and decrease round. The body grows by 6 or 8 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 19-21). If it is soft, the head will flop. Add extra stuffing there and check the head sits upright.
- Trust your marker in the fur. Faux fur hides the stitches, so you cannot see where a round starts. Move the marker up every round and count the stitches you work, even if you cannot see them.
- 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, 6 stitches apart.

VARIATIONS

- Classic white unicorn: work the body, head, snout and ears in plain white worsted yarn instead of the speckled Cake Pop yarn and keep everything else the same. A white body with a pink mane and a gold horn looks clean and timeless.
- A smaller unicorn: use a finer yarn with a smaller hook and follow the same rounds. The toy will come out a little smaller, so choose smaller safety eyes to match.
- A gift set: make two unicorns in different mane colours and sit them together on a shelf. They take a weekend each, so a pair is a comfortable project for a gift.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by The Loopy Lamb: Free Crochet Unicorn Pattern, Eunice the Unicorn, https://theloopylamb.com/free-crochet-unicorn-pattern-eunice-the-unicorn/

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