CROCHET LADYBUG: BEAUTIFUL 3-INCH AMIGURUMI LADYBUG

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

Finished length | About 3 in (7.6 cm) long from head to bum, once assembled

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

SKILL LEVEL

Easy. You need a magic circle, 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 tiny ladybug in worsted weight yarn works up fast: allow a relaxed afternoon, a little longer the first time. That estimate is NOT a source fact; do not quote it as one.

MATERIALS

- Worsted weight (#4) yarn. The sample is made with Lion Brand Basic Stitch, 100% acrylic, 185 yds (170 m) per 100 g ball. One ball of each colour is listed by the source.
- Colour A (sample: Black): about 21 yds (19.2 m)
- Colour B (sample: Red Heather / Red): about 16 yds (14.6 m)
- Total yarn: about 37 yds (33.8 m)
- 3.5 mm (E) crochet hook
- Tapestry needle / yarn needle
- Polyester stuffing
- Scissors

- Stitch marker
- 2 safety eyes, 6 mm

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

BLO: back loop only. ch: chain. dec: decrease (see SCDEC). FLO: front loop only. FO: finish off. MC: magic circle / magic ring. rep: repeat. rnd(s): round(s). sc: single crochet. scdec: single crochet decrease (2 sts worked together into 1 st). scinc: single crochet increase (2 sc in the same st). sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es).

NOTES

This pattern uses US crochet terms. 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 "3 sc"), work one sc in each of the next 3 stitches, not 3 sc in one stitch. Repeats are shown in parentheses: work everything inside the parentheses, then repeat it. For a cleaner decrease, work your scdec under the front loops only of each stitch rather than under both loops; this is often called an invisible decrease. Gauge is not vital to this project, but it may affect the amount of yarn needed and the size of your toy. Gauge: Rounds 1-4 of the body = 1.5 in (3.8 cm) across at the widest point. Crochet tightly so the stuffing does not show through the stitches. Safety eyes are NOT safe for a child under 3: for a baby gift, embroider the eyes instead. That safety note is general amigurumi advice, not a statement from the source pattern.

INVISIBLE FINISH / JOIN

To finish off using the invisible join: FO leaving a long tail. Thread the tail onto a tapestry needle. Place the tapestry needle through the top of the 2nd st from front to back and pull through. Place the tip of the needle into the top of the last st of the round, under the back loop of the stitch, and pull through to the back of the work. Weave in the end.

BODY

Work with Colour B (red).

Rnd 1: Make a MC and sc 6 into the MC. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: (Scinc) x 6. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: (Sc, scinc) x 6. (18 sts)

Rnd 4: Sc, scinc, (2 sc, scinc) x 5, sc. (24 sts)

Gauge check: the piece should measure about 1.5 in (3.8 cm) across at the widest point at the end of Round 4.

Rnd 5: (3 sc, scinc) x 6. (30 sts)

Rnd 6: 2 sc, scinc, (4 sc, scinc) x 5, 2 sc. (36 sts)

Rnds 7-9: Sc around. (36 sts)

FO using the invisible join. Join Colour A in BLO of the first st of Rnd 9.

Rnd 10: 2 sc, scdec, (4 sc, scdec) x 5, 2 sc. (30 sts)

Start stuffing. Continue to add more stuffing as you work.

Rnd 11: (3 sc, scdec) x 6. (24 sts)

Rnd 12: Sc, scdec, (2 sc, scdec) x 5, sc. (18 sts)

Rnd 13: (Sc, scdec) x 6. (12 sts)

Rnd 14: (Scdec) x 6. (6 sts)

FO leaving a tail to close the hole. Weave the tail through the FLO of the last round and cinch the hole shut. Weave in the ends.

HEAD

Work with Colour A (black).

Rnd 1: Make a MC and sc 6 into the MC. (6 sts)

Rnd 2: (Scinc) x 6. (12 sts)

Rnd 3: (Sc, scinc) x 6. (18 sts)

Insert the safety eyes in Rnd 3 with 4 sts between them.

Rnds 4-5: Sc around. (18 sts)

FO using the invisible join and leave a long tail for sewing. Stuff the head and sew it onto the side of the body, adding stuffing as you sew.

LEGS (make 1)

One piece makes all six legs. Work with Colour A (black).

Ch 5.

Rnd 1: Sl st in the 2nd ch from the hook, *ch 7, sl st in the 2nd ch

from the hook and in each of the next 5 chs, sl st into the next ch of the initial ch 5*, repeat from * to * 2 times, turn the work so you are working on the other side of the chain. Repeat from * to * 3 more times. (6 legs in one piece)
FO and leave a long tail for sewing. If the legs are curling, lightly steam block the legs flat. Sew the legs onto the bottom / underside of the body.

BLACK SPOTS (make 8)
Work with Colour A (black). Make 4 spots for each side of the shell.
Rnd 1: Make a MC and sc 6 into the MC. (6 sts)
FO using the invisible join and leave a long tail for sewing. Sew the spots onto the body, using the photo on the source page as reference.

CENTER LINE

Use a length of Colour A (black) to embroider a line down the center of the back of the body, using the photo on the source page as reference.

FINISHING

Sew the head onto the side of the body, adding stuffing as you sew. Sew the eight spots onto the body, four on each side. Sew the legs piece onto the bottom / underside of the body. Embroider the center line down the back of the body. Weave in all loose ends with the yarn needle, hiding them inside the stitches so they do not show. Check that both eyes are locked firmly in place, and that every seam is sewn closed.

CARE

The source pattern gives no care instructions. As general guidance for acrylic yarn: hand wash gently in cold water and lay flat to dry. Do not bleach. Reshape while damp.

TIPS FOR A NEAT LADYBUG

- Work tightly. Use a hook smaller than the yarn label suggests, and check your gauge: Rnds 1-4 of the body = 1.5 in (3.8 cm) across at

the widest point. 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.
- Place the eyes before you stuff the head. Add the 6 mm safety eyes in Rnd 3 of the head, with 4 stitches between them, while the head is still open enough to fix the washers on the inside.
- Start stuffing in Rnd 10 of the body and keep adding stuffing as you work, so the shell stays round and firm.
- Pin before you sew. Pin the head, spots, and legs in place and look at the ladybug from the front before you sew anything: four spots on each side of the shell, and the head on the side of the body.
- Steam the legs flat if they curl. The legs piece is worked in slip stitches, so a light steam block flattens it before sewing.

VARIATIONS

- Classic red ladybug: work Colour B in red heather with a black head, black underside, and eight black spots, the timeless ladybug look.
- Rainbow ladybug: work the shell in any bright colour you like, pink, yellow, purple, or one colour of the rainbow, with the black head and spots staying the same. The designer has seen ladybugs made in neon colours and one in each colour of the rainbow.
- A cuddle sized ladybug: use a super bulky weight yarn such as Bernat Blanket yarn with an 8 mm hook. The designer used 20 mm eyes for that version. Your finished size and yarn amounts will change.
- Fewer or more spots: the designer recommends eight spots, four for each side of the shell, but you can crochet more or fewer spots depending on your personal preference.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by The Loopy Lamb: Lara Ladybug, My Go-To Free Crochet Ladybug Pattern For Sweet Amigurumi Ladybugs, https://theloopylamb.com/2022/09/21/my-go-to-free-crochet-ladybug-pattern-for-sweet-amigurumi-ladybugs/

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