Acorn cat cave

Large · US terms



Finished size

About 16¼ in (41.5 cm) across the nut, 17¾ in (45 cm) across the rim of the cap and 16 in (40.5 cm) tall without the stem, with a round door 7 in (18 cm) across inside its rim and about 6¾ in (17 cm) high from its foot to the rim of the cap, which hangs over the top of the door, for a cat that measures up to 14 in (35.5 cm) from side to side when it sleeps in a curl

Skill

Intermediate

It is single crochet in rounds, with rows at both sides of the door and bobbles in the cap.

Yarn

Bulky (5), 2 colors

Hook

8 mm (US L-11)

Gauge

9 stitches and 9 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: tan, the nut — **about 975 yd (892 m), an estimate**

Yarn B: dark brown, the cap, the stem and the rim of the door — **about 1,025 yd (937 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 1,550 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 130 yd (119 m).

Fiber: wool or acrylic

Two strands of yarn are held together throughout; the amounts above are for all of them.

Hook: 8 mm (US L-11), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a stitch marker, pins, a large blunt yarn needle, scissors and a handful of toy stuffing, for the stem.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

Sizes

Size	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Medium	14½ in (37 cm) across the nut, 16¼ in (41.5 cm) across the rim of the cap, 14 in (35.5 cm) tall without the stem	about 1,650 yd (1,509 m)

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

Large (this file)	**16¼ in (41.5 cm) across the nut, 17¾ in (45 cm) across the rim of the cap, 16 in (40.5 cm) tall without the stem**	**about 2,000 yd (1,829 m)**

Gauge

9 stitches and 9 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

It is counted with the yarn held double.

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. The gauge is checked on the piece itself: after round 8 the base should measure about 7 in (18 cm) across, laid flat and not stretched. A range that is near enough is printed after that round. If the piece measures more than that, begin again with a smaller hook; if it measures less, with a larger hook.

Notes

- Hold two strands of the yarn together all through, also for sewing, and treat them as one. Work firmly: the fabric should be stiff enough to stand by itself.
- Begin with a magic ring: wind the yarn once round two fingers, put the hook through the ring, draw up a loop and chain 1 to hold it, which does not count as a stitch. Work round 1 into the ring, then pull the tail to draw the ring closed.
- The rounds of the base and the foot of the nut, of the cap and of the stem are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round.
- The rounds of the upper part of the nut and of the rim are joined with a slip stitch in their first stitch. The chain of 1 at their start does not count as a stitch; work the first stitch into the stitch the round before was joined in.
- Leave a tail of 6 in (15 cm) wherever a yarn begins.
- Sc3tog: draw up a loop in each of the next 3 stitches, yarn over, and draw through all 4 loops on the hook.
- The bobbles are worked with the right side facing you, and come out on the side away from you; push each one through to the right side with a finger.
- The right side is the outside all over.
- To choose a size, measure your cat asleep in a curl, from side to side, and take the size that names that measure or more. The cat must also pass easily through the door, below the rim of the cap.
- A folded towel or a flat cushion in it keeps the base in shape.
- Colors. The nut with its wall and upper part: A. The rim of the door, the cap and the stem: B.

Instructions

Large. US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **MR** magic ring, **st** stitch, **sp** space, **rnd** round.
sc2tog 2 sc made into one, **sc3tog** 3 sc made into one, **yo** yarn over the hook, **RS** right side, the one that shows.
2 sc in next st: both in one stitch. **sc in next 3 sts**: one in each. **ch-6 sp**: the gap under six chains; the hook goes in the gap.
[ ] 6 times: work what is inside 6 times in all.
(6 sc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

Special stitches

bo (Bobble): [yo, insert hook in the place named, yo, pull up a loop, yo, pull through 2 loops] 5 times, yo, pull through all 6 loops on hook. Push it out to the right side.

Base and foot of the nut

Yarn A, tan.

The base is flat; from the first round of the foot on, the edge turns up by itself, because there are fewer increases.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	

Base

☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 2 sts	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 3 sts	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**Sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)

> **Stop and measure now, after round 8.** The base should measure about 7 in (18 cm) across. Anything from 6¾ in (17 cm) to 7 in (18 cm) is near enough.

☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 4 sts	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**Sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 5 sts	(66 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**Sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 11 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 6 sts	(78 sc)
☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**Sc in next 12 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(84 sc)

Foot of the nut

☐ **Rnd 15**	Sc in each st around	(84 sc)
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**Sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(90 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sc in each st around	(90 sc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**Sc in next 14 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(96 sc)

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

☐ **Rnd 19**	Sc in each st around	(96 sc)
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**Sc in next 15 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(102 sc)
☐ **Rnd 21**	Sc in each st around	(102 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**Sc in next 16 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(108 sc)
☐ **Rnd 23**	Sc in each st around	(108 sc)
☐ **Rnd 24**	**[**Sc in next 17 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(114 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch to level the edge. Put a marker in that stitch: it is stitch 1 of the round; the marker comes out when row 1 of the wall begins there. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Wall round the door

Yarn A, tan.

The last 6 stitches of round 24, stitches 109 to 114, are left free for the foot of the door. Row 1 and every odd row are right side rows. The rows are shorter in the middle of the height, where the door is widest, and longer again above it. The chain of 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	Stitches 1 to 108 of round 24 of the nut, RS facing: 108 stitches.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Join A with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 107 sts	(108 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sc3tog, sc in next 102 sts, sc3tog	(104 sc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 100 sts, sc2tog	(102 sc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 98 sts, sc2tog	(100 sc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 96 sts, sc2tog	(98 sc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(98 sc)
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 94 sts, sc2tog	(96 sc)
☐ **Rows 8 to 12**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(96 sc)

8 9 10 11 12

☐ **Row 13**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 94 sts, 2 sc in last st	(98 sc)
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(98 sc)
☐ **Row 15**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 96 sts, 2 sc in last st	(100 sc)
☐ **Row 16**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 98 sts, 2 sc in last st	(102 sc)
☐ **Row 17**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 100 sts, 2 sc in last st	(104 sc)
☐ **Row 18**	Ch 1, turn; 3 sc in first st, sc in next 102 sts, 3 sc in last st	(108 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

Upper part of the nut

Yarn A, tan.

Row 18, the last of the wall, is a wrong side row, so turn the nut round to the right side. Hold it upright, the door opening toward you. The first st of round 1 is the stitch that was made last in row 18, where the yarn was fastened off: it is just to the left of the opening. Work along row 18 to your left, away from the opening and round the back, to its other end just to the right of the opening, and make the chain over the door. Left-handed, the first st is just to the right of the opening, and you work to your right.

☐ **Foundation**	The last row of the wall, RS facing: 108 stitches.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Join A with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 107 sts, ch 6, sl st in first sc to join	(108 sc, 1 ch-6 sp)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, sc in next 108 sts, 6 sc in next ch-6 sp, sl st in first sc to join	(114 sc)
☐ **Rnds 3 to 4** 3 4	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(114 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog, **[**sc in next 17 sts, sc2tog**] 5 times**, sc in next 9 sts, sl st in first sc to join	(108 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Rim of the door

Yarn B, dark brown.

Hold the nut upright with the outside toward you and begin at the right end of the foot of the door. The places are, in this order, with left and right as you see them while the nut stands upright: along the foot from right to left, 1 in each free stitch of round 24 (6); up the side at your left, 1 in the end of each row of the wall (18); along the top from left to right, 6 over the chain of 6: put the hook through the fabric close above the chain, once in each gap between two of the 6 sc worked over it and once beside the last of them, and out through the opening; and down the side at your right, 1 in the end of each row of the wall (18). In the two upper corners pass over the end of round 1 of the upper part, between row 18 and the chain: the edge goes round the corner in a curve there. Turn the nut as you go, so that the edge you work into is always at the top of what you hold. Left-handed, begin at the left end of the foot and go round the other way.

☐ **Foundation**	The edge of the door, the outside of the nut facing: 48 places.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Join B with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 47 sts, sl st in first sc to join	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(54 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Cap

Yarn B, dark brown.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(6 bo, 6 sc)

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

☐ **Rnd 4**	2 sc in each st around	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 12 times**	(12 bo, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 12 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 18 times**	(18 bo, 18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 12 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 24 times**	(24 bo, 24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 12 times**	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 30 times**	(30 bo, 30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 12 times**	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 36 times**	(36 bo, 36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**Sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 12 times**	(84 sc)
☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 42 times**	(42 bo, 42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**Sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 12 times**	(96 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 48 times**	(48 bo, 48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**Sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 12 times**	(108 sc)
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 54 times**	(54 bo, 54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**Sc in next 17 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(114 sc)
☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 57 times**	(57 bo, 57 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**Sc in next 18 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(120 sc)
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 60 times**	(60 bo, 60 sc)
☐ **Rnd 24**	**[**Sc in next 19 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(126 sc)
☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**Bo in next st, sc in next st**] 63 times**	(63 bo, 63 sc)
☐ **Rnd 26**	Sc in each st around	(126 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Stem

Yarn B, dark brown.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

☐ **Rnds 3 to 8** 3 4 5 6 7 8	Sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 40 in (101.5 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Weave in all the tails of the nut, of the wall, of its upper part and of the rim on the inside, each along a round or a row for about 4 in (10 cm). Do the same on the wrong side of the cap. Weave in the starting tail of the stem inside the stem. Leave only the long tail of the stem.

2. Stem: stuff it firmly. Set its open end on the middle of the cap, over rounds 1 and 2. With its long tail sew it down all round: the needle goes through a stitch of the last round of the stem and then down through the cap and up again close beside it, 12 stitches, one for each stitch of the stem. Go round a second time in the same stitches, for the stem is a handle, and fasten off on the wrong side of the cap.

3. Cap: the bobbles and the right side are outside. Set the cap on the nut. Round 18 of the cap, which has 108 stitches, lies on the 108 stitches of the last round of the nut, and the 8 rounds after it hang down outside as the rim. Over the door the rim comes about 1¼ in (3 cm) below the upper edge of the opening. Pin round 18 down at four points, a quarter of the round apart, so that the rim is level all round. Cut two lengths of B, two strands, 84 in (213.5 cm) long each, one for each half of the round. Lift the rim and whip stitch the cap to the nut from outside, under the rim. Whip stitch: put the needle under both loops of a stitch of the nut and then under one strand of a stitch of round 18 on the wrong side of the cap, one stitch for each stitch, and draw the yarn snug. Begin both lengths at the middle of the back with a tail of 6 in (15 cm) and go round to the right and to the left until they meet over the door, 54 stitches each. Fasten off and draw all the ends to the inside and weave them in. Take out the pins.

4. Rim of the door: it stands out from the wall like a thick ring. Turn it outward a little with your fingers; its top lies behind the rim of the cap.

Finishing

- Pull the nut into shape from inside with both hands. Lay a towel or a small cushion in it. Look at the seams every week, and sew on again what has come loose. Wash it by hand, fill it with towels so that it keeps its shape, and let it dry standing.

In all: 3 pieces.

Found a mistake in this pattern? Tell us at flossfield.com, under Make a request.

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.