# Football with laces

US terms



Finished size
**About 5¾ in (14.5 cm) long and 3¼ in (8.3 cm) across**

Skill
**Easy**
One piece, worked in rounds.

Yarn
**Medium (4), 3 colors**

Hook
**3.5 mm (US E-4)**

Gauge
**20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)**
In single crochet, in a spiral.

## You will need

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|---|---|
| Yarn A: russet brown, football | **about 75 yd (69 m), an estimate** |
| Yarn B: white, football and the details | **about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate** |
| Yarn C: dark brown, the details | **about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate** |

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins and scissors.

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.

## Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

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|---|---|
| **sc** | single crochet (UK dc, double crochet) |
| **sc2tog** | single crochet 2 stitches together, through the front loops only: how is under “Before you start” (UK dc2tog, double crochet 2 stitches together) |
| **MR** | magic ring |
| **RS** | right side |
| **Rnd** | round |
| **st** | stitch |
| **yo** | yarn over (UK yrh, yarn round hook) |

## Gauge

**20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)** in single crochet, in a spiral.

To check it, work a flat circle: 6 sc in a magic ring, then 6 more sc in each round (12, 18, 24, 30, 36). After round 6 it should measure about 2¼ in (5.5 cm) across. The stitches should be tight enough that the stuffing does not show.


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Use any hook that gives you this. If you count more stitches than this in 4 in (10 cm), change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, to a smaller one.

## Before you start

- Every piece is worked in a continuous spiral with the right side facing you: do not join and do not turn. Put the marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up.
- Square brackets hold a repeat; work it as many times as the line says. The number in parentheses is the count at the end of the round.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work round 1 into the loop and pull the tail to close it. Or chain 2 and work round 1 into the first chain.
- Color change: where a line begins "With B," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in B. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- Center line: places on a piece are given by round and by stitches from a center line. It is half way round from where the rounds begin. Mark it with a pin or a scrap of yarn as listed here, run it straight from round 1 to the last round by eye, and count out from it along the round, in stitches and half stitches.
- Football: the center line runs between stitches 26 and 27 of round 18 (52 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the left end.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the football. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- To work sc2tog, put the hook under the front loop only of each of the next 2 stitches, yarn over, pull through both loops, yarn over, pull through 2 loops.
- No plastic eyes are used: every detail is worked in yarn.
- The rounds and stitches are the same for every size; the yarn and the hook make the difference. Lengths in the words (tails, ovals, details) are for Standard, the size written here: for another size multiply them by the number in its line.
- Small: fine (2, sport) yarn, 2.25 mm (B-1) hook, 27 sc and 30 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 4¼ in (11 cm) long and 2½ in (6.3 cm) across; multiply lengths by 0.74; about 0.74 times the yarn.
- Large: bulky (5, chunky) yarn, 5 mm (H-8) hook, 14 sc and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 8¼ in (21 cm) long and 4¾ in (12 cm) across; multiply lengths by 1.4; about 1.4 times the yarn.
- Jumbo: super bulky (6, plush or velvet) yarn, 6.5 mm (K-10½) hook, 11 sc and 12.1 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 10½ in (26.5 cm) long and 6 in (15 cm) across; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

## Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a round is done. In UK terms sc is double crochet.

**Yarns in order of use: A, russet brown; B, white.**

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|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | Make a magic ring. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | 4 sc in MR | **(4 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 2** | 2 sc in each st around | **(8 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 3** | **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times** | **(12 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 4** | **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 4 times** | **(16 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 5** | **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times** | **(20 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 6** | Sc in each st around | **(20 sc)** |


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| ☐ **Rnd 7** | **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 4 times** | **(24 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 8** | **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 4 times** | **(28 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 9** | With B, **[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times** | **(32 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 10** | **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 4 times** | **(36 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 11** | Sc in each st around | **(36 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 12** | With A, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 4 times** | **(40 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 13** | Sc in each st around | **(40 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 14** | **[**sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times** | **(44 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 15** | **[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 4 times** | **(48 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnds 16 to 17** | Sc in each st around | **(48 sc)** |

A box for each round, 16 to 17: tick them off as you go.

16 17

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| ☐ **Rnd 18** | **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 11 sts**] 4 times** | **(52 sc)** |

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 26 and 27 of round 18. It faces the front, round 1 at the left end.

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| ☐ **Rnds 19 to 22** | Sc in each st around | **(52 sc)** |

A box for each round, 19 to 22: tick them off as you go.

19 20 21 22

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| ☐ **Rnd 23** | **[**sc in next 11 sts, sc2tog**] 4 times** | **(48 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnds 24 to 25** | Sc in each st around | **(48 sc)** |

A box for each round, 24 to 25: tick them off as you go.

24 25

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| ☐ **Rnd 26** | **[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 4 times** | **(44 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 27** | **[**sc2tog, sc in next 9 sts**] 4 times** | **(40 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 28** | Sc in each st around | **(40 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 29** | With B, **[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 4 times** | **(36 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 30** | Sc in each st around | **(36 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 31** | **[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 4 times** | **(32 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 32** | With A, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 4 times** | **(28 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 33** | **[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 4 times** | **(24 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 34** | **[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 4 times** | **(20 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 35** | Sc in each st around | **(20 sc)** |

Stuff firmly now, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

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| ☐ **Rnd 36** | **[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 4 times** | **(16 sc)** |


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|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnd 37** | **[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 4 times** | **(12 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 38** | **[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 4 times** | **(8 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 39** | **[**sc2tog**] 4 times** | **(4 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 4 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside. | |

### Assembly

**1.** Roll the football between your palms and pinch both ends, so that they are pointed and the middle is round. Work a lump away with the point of the needle, put in between two stitches.

## Finishing

- Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle; begin and end each strand inside the toy. Backstitch is a line of short stitches end to end: bring the needle up one stitch ahead, put it down at the end of the stitch before, and repeat.
- Seam: with C (dark brown), in backstitch with stitches one round long, one line along the center line from the first brown round after the left white band, round 12, to the last brown round before the right one, round 28.
- Laces: with B (white), first two lines of backstitch side by side along the center line, one on each side of the seam line and close against it, from round 14 to round 26. Then seven bars across them, on rounds 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 26: each is two straight stitches side by side, from 2 stitches on one side of the center line to 2 stitches on the other.
- Weave every tail through the football and trim it. Check the laces and the closed end from time to time.

In all: 39 rounds; 1,268 stitches.

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