Puzzle ball for a baby

US terms



Finished size
About 4¾ in (12 cm) across, from the fat middle of a segment to that of the segment opposite

Skill
Easy
Twelve pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Light (3), 4 colors

Hook
2.75 mm (US C-2)

Gauge
24 stitches and 26.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet, in a spiral.

What you need

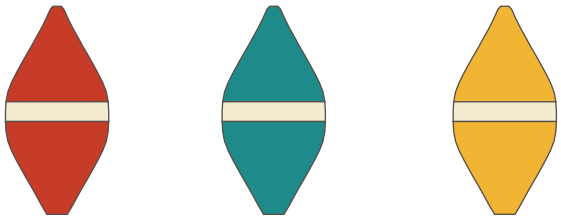
Yarn A: tomato red, red segment	**about 90 yd (82 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: teal, teal segment	**about 90 yd (82 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: sunflower yellow, yellow segment	**about 90 yd (82 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: cream, red segment, teal segment and yellow segment	**about 45 yd (41 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 130 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).

Hook: 2.75 mm (US C-2), 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.

The pieces



Red segment x 4 **Teal segment x 4** **Yellow segment x 4**

Gauge

24 stitches and 26.4 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 1 7/8 in (4.8 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.

Notes

- 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 D," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in D. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the ball. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- In every step of putting it together: where a piece meets or overlaps another, sew through both. Where no tail is left or a tail is too short, sew with a new length of the yarn of the piece you are putting on.
- 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.
- One size, at the gauge above: about 4¾ in (12 cm) across, from the fat middle of a segment to that of the segment opposite. A thinner or a thicker yarn with a hook to suit makes it smaller or larger; every length then changes with it.

Instructions

US terms.

sc single crochet (UK double crochet), **MR** magic ring, **Rnd** round, **st** stitch.
sc2tog 2 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 2 sts**: one in each.
[ ] 2 times: work what is inside 2 times in all.
(4 sc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Red segment: make 4

Yarns in order of use: A, tomato red; D, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(4 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(9 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(15 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 3 times**	(21 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(24 sc)

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☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 3 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in each st around	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnds 12 to 13**	With D, sc in each st around	(30 sc)
12 13		
☐ **Rnds 14 to 15**	With A, sc in each st around	(30 sc)
14 15		
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 3 times**	(21 sc)
Stuff firmly now, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.		
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(15 sc)
☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(9 sc)
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches and pull it tight to close the hole. Do not cut the tail: it joins this segment to the next.	

Teal segment: make 4

Yarns in order of use: B, teal; D, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(4 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(9 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(15 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 3 times**	(21 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 3 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in each st around	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnds 12 to 13**	With D, sc in each st around	(30 sc)
12 13		

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☐ **Rnds 14 to 15** 14 15	With B, sc in each st around	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 3 times**	(21 sc)
Stuff firmly now, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.		
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(15 sc)
☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(9 sc)
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches and pull it tight to close the hole. Do not cut the tail: it joins this segment to the next.	

Yellow segment: make 4

Yarns in order of use: C, sunflower yellow; D, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(4 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(9 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(15 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 3 times**	(21 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(24 sc)
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☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 3 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in each st around	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnds 12 to 13** 12 13	With D, sc in each st around	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnds 14 to 15** 14 15	With C, sc in each st around	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 3 times**	(21 sc)

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

☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(15 sc)
☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(9 sc)
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches and pull it tight to close the hole. Do not cut the tail: it joins this segment to the next.	

Assembly

1. Sew the four red segments into a ring. Set the closed end of one segment against round 1 of the next, point to point, and with the tail sew the two together round the point, through the stitches of round 2 of one and of the last round of the other, going round three times and drawing each stitch tight: these joins cannot be reached any more when the rings are in one another, and a baby will pull at them. Join the second to the third, the third to the fourth and the fourth to the first in the same way. Run every end through the stuffing inside its segment and trim it.

2. Sew the four teal segments into a ring in the same way, every join gone round three times and every end run inside.

3. Sew the four yellow segments into a ring in the same way, every join gone round three times and every end run inside.

4. Put the rings together, the yellow one first. Stand the yellow ring upright with its hole toward you and its four joins at the top, the bottom, the right and the left.

5. Hold the teal ring upright at the right of the yellow one, two of its joins at the top and the bottom, its hole toward the join at the right of the yellow ring. Push it over the yellow ring like a hoop until two opposite joins of the teal ring lie on the top join and the bottom join of the yellow ring, crossing over the outside of them. The other two joins of the teal ring now stand out, one toward you and one away from you.

6. Hold the red ring level above the two, like a belt, and pull it down over them, squeezing the segments past each other, until it lies round the middle. Turn it so that its four joins cross over the outside of the joins at the right and the left (yellow) and of the joins in front and at the back (teal).

7. Go round the six places where two joins cross and settle the outer join in the waist between the two fat segments under it. The segments press against each other and hold the ball together; between them are eight three-sided hollows, where small fingers can take hold. To take it apart, pull the red ring off first, then the teal one.

Finishing

- Check the joins and the seams from time to time.

In all: 12 pieces; 5,376 stitches (448 in each red segment, 448 in each teal segment, 448 in each yellow segment).

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

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