Barn owl on a branch

US terms



Finished size
About 4½ in (11.5 cm) tall on the branch, the branch about 7½ in (19 cm) long with its leaves

Skill
Intermediate
15 pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Medium (4), 6 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

Yarn A: honey, body, wing, tail and the details	**about 110 yd (101 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: cream, face disc and tummy patch	**about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: taupe, wing, tail and the details	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: bark brown, branch	**about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: horn, beak and toe	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: sage, leaf	**about 15 yd (14 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, scissors and two black plastic eyes with washers, 10 mm.

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.

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 cro
MR	magic ring
RS	right side
Rnd	round
st	stitch

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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 (5.7 cm) across. The stitches should be tight enough that the stuffing does not show.

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 A," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in A. 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.
- Body: the center line runs between stitches 24 and 25 of round 9 (48 sts). It faces the front. Branch: the center line runs through the middle of stitch 8 of round 3 (15 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the toy. 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.
- For a child under three, or a pet, embroider the eyes instead: satin stitch dots of the same size in D (bark brown).
- 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 3 3/8 in (8.6 cm) tall on the branch, the branch about 5½ in (14 cm) long with its leaves; eyes 7 mm; 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 6½ in (16.5 cm) tall on the branch, the branch about 10¾ in (27.5 cm) long with its leaves; eyes 14 mm; 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 8¼ in (21 cm) tall on the branch, the branch about 13¾ in (35 cm) long with its leaves; eyes 18 mm; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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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.

Branch

Yarn D, bark brown.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 35**	Sc in each st around	**(15 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 35: tick them off as you go.

☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐ 24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26 ☐ 27 ☐ 28 ☐ 29 ☐ 30 ☐ 31 ☐ 32 ☐ 33 ☐ 34 ☐ 35

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

☐ **Rnd 36**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next st**] 5 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 37**	**[**sc2tog**] 5 times**	**(5 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 5 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside.	

Face disc: make 2

Yarn B, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat with the right side up.	

Body

Yarn A, honey.

Round 1 is the middle of the base.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 10 to 17**	Sc in each st around	**(48 sc)**

A box for each round, 10 to 17: tick them off as you go.

☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17

☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 19 to 20**	Sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**

A box for each round, 19 to 20: tick them off as you go.

☐ 19 ☐ 20

☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 22 to 25**	Sc in each st around	**(48 sc)**

A box for each round, 22 to 25: tick them off as you go.

☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐ 24 ☐ 25

☐ **Rnd 26**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 27**	Sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 28**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 29**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 30**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

Sew on the face discs now. Lay the two face discs flat on the body, right side out, the middle of each on round 25, one to each side, 4½ stitches from the center line (9 stitches apart), and pin both before you sew. Ease each into an oval about 1 5/8 in (4.1 cm) wide and 2 1/8 in (5.4 cm) tall, its top tipped outward (a tilt of about 40 degrees). The edges of the two discs just touch on the center line. Above and below that place they part, so that together they make a heart. Sew down all 30 stitches of the edge. Then fix the eyes (see Finishing). Then stuff firmly, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 31**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 32**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 33**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside.	

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Tummy patch

Yarn B, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat with the right side up.	

Beak

Yarn E, horn.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	3 sc in MR	**(3 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff lightly up to the open edge.	

Wing: make 2

Yarns in order of use: C, taupe; A, honey.

☐ **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 5 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	With A, **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 7 to 9**	Sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**

A box for each round, 7 to 9: tick them off as you go.

☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9

☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts**] 2 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 6 stitches.	

Tail

Yarns in order of use: C, taupe; A, honey.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	8 sc in MR	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 11**	With A, sc in each st around	**(14 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 11: tick them off as you go.

☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 7 stitches.	

Toe: make 4

Yarn E, horn.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 2 to 4**	Sc in each st around	**(5 sc)**

A box for each round, 2 to 4: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog	**(4 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

Leaf: make 2

Yarn F, sage.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in each st around	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts	**(12 sc)**

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☐ **Rnds 7 to 8**	Sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**

A box for each round, 7 to 8: tick them off as you go.

7 8

☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	Sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next st	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, with the increases and decreases about along the two folds. The last round makes a straight double edge of 3 stitches.	

Assembly

1. Lay the tummy patch flat on the body, right side out, the middle of it between rounds 12 and 13, on the center line. Ease it into an oval about 1½ in (3.8 cm) wide and 2 1/8 in (5.4 cm) tall as you pin it. Sew down all 30 stitches of the edge.

2. Pin the beak to the body: the middle of the open edge lies on round 25 of the body, on the center line, over the place where the two face discs touch. The edge (6 sts) covers about rounds 24 to 26 of the body. It points down and a little forward, its tip hanging free. Sew all the way round with the tail, through the discs and the body, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

3. Pin the two wings to the body: the middle of each flat edge lies on round 20, one to each side, 9½ stitches from the center line (19 stitches apart). The flat edge runs along the round, half of it on each side of that place. They point down. Sew through both layers of the 6-stitch edge with the tail. Lay each wing down along the side of the body, flat and without folds. Its tip comes to about round 9 (48 sts), 11 stitches from the center line: there the side of the body begins to turn under, and no part of the wing hangs below it. Run the rest of the tail down inside the wing and catch the tip to the body with two or three stitches.

4. Pin the tail to the body: the middle of the flat edge lies on round 7, on the line opposite the center line. The flat edge runs along the round, half of it on each side of that place. It points down and back. Sew through both layers of the 7-stitch edge with its tail of yarn. Its tip will hang down behind the branch.

5. Lay the branch from left to right, its center line on top and round 1 at the left. Stand the body on it, looking forward: the middle of the base (round 1 of the body) over round 18 of the branch, on the center line. Press the base down on the branch a little. With a new length of A (honey), sew the two together where they touch, in an oval about 1 in (25 mm) from left to right and 5/8 in (16 mm) from front to back, going round twice.

6. Sew the four toes to the branch in two pairs, under the front edge of the body. The middle of the open edge (4 sts) of each lies 1½ stitches from the center line of the branch, toward the front: those of the left foot on rounds 12 and 15 of the branch, those of the right foot on rounds 21 and 24. (The middle of the body is over round 18: the inner toes are 3 rounds from it and the outer toes 6 rounds.) Each toe points forward and curls down over the front of the branch. Sew each edge to the branch, and where it touches the body catch it to the body as well. Then catch the tip of each toe to the branch with one stitch.

7. Pin one leaf to the branch: the middle of the flat edge lies on round 32, 1 stitch from the center line, toward the front. The edge runs slantwise: its inner end is on round 31, on the center line, and its outer end, nearer the right end of the branch, is on round 33, 2 stitches from the center line, toward the front. The leaf points up, then curves over to the right, so that its tip stands just past the right end of the branch and about 1 in (25 mm) above the top of it, its broad side facing the front. Sew through both layers of the 3-stitch edge with the tail.

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8. Pin one leaf to the branch: the middle of the flat edge lies on round 5, 1 stitch from the center line, toward the front. The edge runs slantwise: its inner end is on round 6, on the center line, and its outer end, nearer the left end of the branch, is on round 4, 2 stitches from the center line, toward the front. The leaf points up, then curves over to the left, so that its tip stands just past the left end of the branch and about 1 in (25 mm) above the top of it, its broad side facing the front. Sew through both layers of the 3-stitch edge with the tail.

Finishing

- Put in the plastic eyes when the words of a piece say so, or embroider eyes in the same places with the other details. Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle when the pieces round the place are sewn on; begin and end each strand inside the toy. Satin stitch is straight stitches side by side until the shape is filled. 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.
- Eyes: two 10 mm black plastic eyes, one through each face disc and the body under it, between rounds 1 and 2 of the face disc, straight toward the center line of the body from the middle of the disc.
- Face rim: with C (taupe), in backstitch, one line along the outside edge of the heart: begin where the edges of the two face discs meet, follow the edge of the left disc up over its top, down its outer side and along the bottom until the edges meet again, then go the same way round the right disc. Where the two discs touch, behind the beak, nothing is worked.
- Breast flecks: with C (taupe), seven flecks on the tummy patch, each two straight stitches in the same two holes, straight up and down, 3/16 in (5 mm) long. The places, for the middle of each fleck, from the middle of the patch: two ½ in (13 mm) above it, one 3/16 in (5 mm) to each side; one on the middle itself and two level with it, one 3/8 in (10 mm) to each side; two ½ in (13 mm) below it, one 3/16 in (5 mm) to each side.
- Weave every tail through the toy and trim it. For a toy that will be played with, go round each seam a second time with a new length of yarn. Check the seams and small parts from time to time.

In all: 15 pieces; 2,797 stitches.

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

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