Baseball and softball

US terms



Finished size
The baseball about 3 in (7.6 cm) across and the softball about 3¾ in (9.5 cm) across

Skill
Intermediate
Two pieces worked in rounds, with nothing to sew.

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.

What you need

Yarn A: white, baseball	**about 55 yd (50 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: optic yellow, softball	**about 85 yd (78 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: scarlet, the details	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 80 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, about 20 pins, scissors and about 2 yd (2 m) of thread in another color for basting.

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.

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 2 3/16 in (5.6 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.

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.

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- Stuff each ball very firmly and evenly, so that it is round and does not give: the seam is worked on it when it is closed.
- Running stitches go in and out along a line.
- 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.
- 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.
- Baseball: the center line runs between stitches 24 and 25 of round 11 (48 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the top.
- Softball: the center line runs between stitches 30 and 31 of round 13 (60 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the top.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the ball. 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, 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): the baseball about 2¼ in (5.7 cm) across and the softball about 2 7/8 in (7.3 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): the baseball about 4¼ in (11 cm) across and the softball about 5½ in (14 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): the baseball about 5½ in (14 cm) across and the softball about 7 in (18 cm) across; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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.
[ ] 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**.

Baseball

Yarn A, white.

☐ **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**	**[**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)
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in each st around	(30 sc)

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☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnds 9 to 10**	Sc in each st around	(42 sc)
9 10		
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 24 and 25 of round 11. It faces the front, round 1 at the top.		
☐ **Rnds 12 to 15**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
12 13 14 15		
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnds 17 to 18**	Sc in each st around	(42 sc)
17 18		
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 21**	Sc in each st around	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
Stuff firmly now, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.		
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 24**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**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.	

Softball

Yarn B, optic yellow.

☐ **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**	**[**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)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in each st around	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)

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☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in each st around	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**	(60 sc)

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 30 and 31 of round 13. It faces the front, round 1 at the top.

☐ **Rnds 14 to 19**	Sc in each st around	(60 sc)

14 15 16 17 18 19

☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 21**	Sc in each st around	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 23**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 24**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 26**	Sc in each st around	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 27**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 28**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)

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

☐ **Rnd 29**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 30**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 31**	**[**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.	

Assembly

1. There is nothing to sew. Roll the baseball and the softball between your palms until each is round, then work their seams (see Finishing).

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Finishing

- Baseball seam: 80 V stitches with C (scarlet) in one line that goes once round the ball and closes. Work it when the ball is stuffed and closed, with the yarn needle and one strand of yarn, used in the lengths of about 40 in (1 m) that pull through without tangling: begin and end each length inside the ball, trimmed close to it, and fasten one off before the next is begun. Before the V stitches, the 80 places of the line are marked with a basting thread. They are pinned one part at a time (a part is one upright line or one arch), so 20 pins are enough. The places are these. Upright lines: line 1 is the center line; line 2, line 3 and line 4 are one quarter, two quarters and three quarters of the way round to the right of it, counted on each round by itself (a quarter is 12 stitches on a round of 48, 10½ on 42, 9 on 36, 7½ on 30 and 6 on 24). Each of the four lines has one place on every round from round 8 to round 18 (44 places). Top arches: one from line 1 to line 2 and one from line 3 to line 4. Each has nine places, counted to the right from its first line: round 7, ½ stitch; round 6, ½ stitch; round 5, 1½ stitches; round 4, 2, 3 and 4 stitches; round 5, 6 stitches; round 6, 7 stitches; round 7, 8½ stitches. Bottom arches: one from line 2 to line 3 and one from line 4 to line 1. Each has the same nine places with round 19 for round 7, round 20 for round 6, round 21 for round 5 and round 22 for round 4. The order of the places: from round 18 of line 1 up line 1 (toward round 1), over the top arch to line 2, down line 2, under the bottom arch to line 3, up line 3, over the top arch to line 4, down line 4 and under the bottom arch back to round 18 of line 1. Pin the 11 places of line 1 and baste through them in that order with the thread in another color, in running stitches that go in at one place and come out at the next, so that at every place the thread goes in or comes out; take each pin out when the thread has gone through its place. Then pin and baste the next part, with the same thread, and so on through all 80 places; a part that is basted shows where the line runs from which the next is counted. When the whole line is basted, each place is marked by the end of a basting stitch, and nothing has to be counted again. Work the V stitches in the same order, one V to each place. A V points the way the line goes: its point is at the place, and it has two arms, one on each side of the line (left and right here are as you look along the line, the way it goes): the left arm is a straight stitch that begins 3/16 in (5 mm) back along the line and 3/16 in (5 mm) out to the left of it (on the upright lines, one round back and one stitch out) and ends at the point; the right arm begins as far back and as far out to the right of the line and ends at the same point. Most places are about 3/16 in (5 mm) apart, some on the arches more; where two are more than ¼ in (6 mm) apart, move the points of those two V stitches a little toward each other, so that no gap is seen. The number stays 80. When the line is closed, pull the basting thread out.
- Softball seam: 92 V stitches with C (scarlet), worked when the ball is stuffed and closed, with the yarn needle and one strand of yarn, used in the lengths of about 40 in (1 m) that pull through without tangling: begin and end each length inside the ball, trimmed close to it, and fasten one off before the next is begun. Mark, baste and work it as the seam of the baseball is worked: pinned and basted one part at a time in the same order of lines and arches (from round 21 of line 1), running stitches that go in at one place and come out at the next, each pin left in until the thread has gone through its place, one V with its point at every place, the basting pulled out at the end. The number stays 92. A quarter of the way round is 15 stitches on a round of 60, 13½ on 54, 12 on 48, 10½ on 42 and 9 on 36. Upright lines: one place on every round from round 11 to round 21 on each of the four lines (44 places). Top arches: twelve places each, counted to the right from the first line: round 10, ½ stitch; round 9, 1 stitch; round 8, 1½ stitches; round 7, 2 stitches; round 6, 3, 4, 5 and 6 stitches; round 7, 7 stitches; round 8, 9 stitches; round 9, 11 stitches; round 10, 11½ stitches. Bottom arches: the same twelve places with round 22 for round 10, round 23 for round 9, round 24 for round 8, round 25 for round 7 and round 26 for round 6. The arms of each V are as long as on the baseball.
- Weave every tail through the balls and trim it. Check the seam stitches from time to time.

In all: 2 pieces; 2,040 stitches (804 in the baseball, 1,236 in the softball).

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

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