Bluebird applique

US terms



Finished size
About 5¾ in (15 cm) wide and about 4¼ in (11 cm) tall

Skill
Easy
Worked in rows and rounds, with 10 pieces, color changes and 1 special stitch.

Yarn
Light (3), 7 colors

Hook
4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge
18 stitches and 19 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: bright blue, the body and the head	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: sky blue, the wing patch	**about 3 yd (3 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: deep blue, the wing and the bird tail	**about 7 yd (6 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: rust, the breast	**about 4 yd (4 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: charcoal, the beak	**about 3 yd (3 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: bark brown, the twig	**about 4 yd (4 m), an estimate**
Yarn G: leaf green, the leaves	**about 4 yd (4 m), an estimate**

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking and a spray bottle.

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 and chains 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.

ch	chain stitch
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
hdc	half double crochet (UK htr, half treble)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
tr	treble crochet (UK dtr, double treble)
dtr	double treble crochet (UK trtr, triple treble)
rem	remaining
st	stitch

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rnd	round
RS	right side

Special stitches

sc2tog (UK dc2tog): [insert the hook in the next stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop] twice (3 loops on the hook), yarn over and pull through all 3 loops. It leaves 1 st for the next row or round.

Gauge

18 stitches and 19 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

Work a piece a little more than 4 in (10 cm) square, lay it flat and count. If you count more stitches than this, use a larger hook; if fewer, a smaller one.

Before you start

- Rounds are worked with the right side facing; do not turn.
- Where a line says turn, turn the piece over and work back along the stitches just made.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work the first round or row into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed. Four chains joined into a ring with a slip stitch may be used instead.
- A chain 1 at the start of a round or a row does not count as a stitch.
- Working along the other side of the chain: turn the piece round, not over, and work into the unused loops of the foundation chain, beginning in the chain next to the one just used.
- At the start of a round, same st is the stitch the round before was joined in.
- A round worked in each st around begins in the st the round before was joined in.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches are not counted.
- The dtr in Rnd 5 of the body is its point. The dtr of the wing and the tr of the wing patch are their tips.
- The breast is worked in rounds round a chain. In its Rnd 1 the last 2 sc are worked in the chain that holds the first sc.
- The bird tail is worked from its lower end up: the foundation edge is the end of the tail, and the last row is the end that is hidden behind the body. The beak is worked from its point: Row 1 is the point, Row 3 the wide end. The right side of the bird tail, of the beak and of the twig faces you in Row 1; in the bird tail and the beak it faces you in every other row after that, too. The foundation edge of the twig is its lower edge.
- Rnd 1 of a leaf goes along one side of its chain and back along the other; it is not joined. The end with the 3 sc is its tip; the other end, where the round begins and ends, is its base.
- The distances under FINISHING are for the yarn and gauge above; in another yarn make them larger or smaller in the same proportion as the size.
- French knot (sewn): bring the yarn needle up from the back, wrap the yarn twice round the needle close to the surface, hold the wraps and put the needle down beside the place where it came up. For a large knot use the yarn double and wrap it three times.
- Straight stitch (sewn): bring the yarn needle up from the back at one end of the stitch and put it down at the other end.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured the longest way: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 5 in (13 cm); medium yarn (4) and a 5 mm hook, about 7½ in (19 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 9½ in (24 cm).

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Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. Round brackets ( ) inside a line hold stitches that all go into one place. 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 sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, hdc is half treble, dc is treble, tr is double treble and dtr is triple treble.

Body

Yarn A, bright blue.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 6 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, sc in same st, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, sc in same st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, dc in next st, 2 dc in next st, (tr, dtr, tr) in next st, 2 dc in next st, dc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, sl st in first sc to join	**(21 sc, 6 hdc, 6 dc, 2 tr, 1 dtr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Breast

Yarn D, rust.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 4.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next ch, 3 sc in next ch, working along the other side of the chain, sc in next ch, 2 sc in next ch, sl st in first sc to join	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in same st, sc in next st, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next st, 2 sc in each of next 2 sts, sl st in first sc to join	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, 2 sc in same st, sc in next 2 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next st, [2 sc in next st, sc in next st] twice, sl st in first sc to join	**(20 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 18 in (46 cm) tail for sewing.	

Head

Yarn A, bright blue.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 6 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(12 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, sc in same st, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(18 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing.	

Wing

Yarn C, deep blue.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 8 hdc in ring, sl st in first hdc to join	**(8 hdc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 3 hdc in same st, 3 hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, 3 dc in next st, (tr, dtr, tr) in next st, 3 dc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, 3 hdc in next st, sl st in first hdc to join	**(13 hdc, 6 dc, 2 tr, 1 dtr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 18 in (46 cm) tail for sewing.	

Wing patch

Yarn B, sky blue.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 6 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in same st, 2 sc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, (dc, tr, dc) in next st, 2 hdc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sl st in first sc to join	**(6 sc, 4 hdc, 2 dc, 1 tr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing.	

Bird tail

Yarn C, deep blue.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 6.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 4 chs	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 4**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(5 sc)**

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

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog in next 2 sts, sc in next st, sc2tog in next 2 sts	**(2 sc2tog, 1 sc)**
☐ **Rows 6 to 8**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(3 sc)**

A box for each row, 6 to 8: tick them off as you go.

☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing.	

Beak

Yarn E, charcoal.

☐ **Foundation**	With E, ch 2.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook	**(1 sc)**

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☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 3 sc in next st	**(3 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(3 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing.	

Twig

Yarn F, bark brown.

☐ **Foundation**	With F, ch 22.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each rem ch across	**(21 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(21 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing.	

Leaf: make 2

Yarn G, leaf green.

☐ **Foundation**	With G, ch 7.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next ch, dc in next 2 chs, hdc in next ch, 3 sc in next ch, working along the other side of the chain, hdc in next ch, dc in next 2 chs, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch	**(5 sc, 4 hdc, 4 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing.	

Finishing

- Block: pin the pieces to shape on a flat surface, right sides up: the body as a drop, its point drawn out; the head as a round; the breast as an oval, 1¾ in (4.4 cm) tall and 1¼ in (3.2 cm) wide; the wing and the wing patch as drops with one point each; the bird tail with straight sides; the twig with its foundation edge at the bottom, in a gentle bend, its middle 1/8 in (0.3 cm) higher than its ends. Spray them with water and let them dry.
- The bird faces right. Lay the body down, right side up, turned so that the tip of its point is 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) to the left of its magic ring and 1¼ in (3.2 cm) below it. All distances are measured from the magic ring of the body, straight across and straight up or down, unless a line names another place.
- Bird tail: lay it behind the body, right side up, its last row hidden, the middle of the last row 5/8 in (1.6 cm) to the left of the magic ring and 5/8 in (1.6 cm) below it. It points down and to the left, under the point of the body: the middle of its foundation edge is 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) to the left of the magic ring and 2 1/8 in (5.4 cm) below it. With its tail, sew the hidden part to the back of the body, and from the front sew the edge of the body to it.
- Twig: lay it behind the body and behind the bird tail, right side up, the foundation edge down, its middle higher than its ends. Its left end is 2½ in (6.4 cm) to the left of the magic ring of the body and its right end 2¼ in (5.7 cm) to the right of it. Its foundation edge is 1½ in (3.8 cm) below the magic ring at the two ends and 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) below it in the middle. Under the bird the body covers about 1/8 in (0.3 cm) of the upper edge of the twig, and the bird tail lies over the twig further to the left. With its tail, sew it to the back of the body and to the back of the bird tail where they lie over it.
- Breast: lay it on the body, right side up, its long way straight up and down, the middle of its foundation chain ½ in (1.3 cm) to the right of the magic ring of the body and 1/8 in (0.3 cm) below it. Its right-hand edge stands out about 1/8 in (0.3 cm) beyond the edge of the body and hides it. Sew it down along its edge with its tail; where it stands out, sew the edge of the body to its back.

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- Wing: lay it on the body and the left-hand edge of the breast, right side up, its magic ring ¼ in (0.6 cm) to the left of the magic ring of the body and 1/8 in (0.3 cm) above it, its tip 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) to the left of the magic ring of the body and ¾ in (1.9 cm) below it. Sew it down all round its edge with its tail; where it stands out beyond the edge of the body, sew the edge of the body to its back. Wing patch: lay it on the wing, right side up, its magic ring 3/8 in (1 cm) to the left of the magic ring of the body and 1/8 in (0.3 cm) above it, its tip pointing the same way as the tip of the wing. Sew it down all round its edge with its tail.
- Beak: lay the head down by itself, right side up, the place where its rounds are joined at the bottom, and keep it turned this way. Lay the beak behind the head, right side up, its point straight out to the right, 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) to the right of the magic ring of the head and 1/8 in (0.3 cm) below it. About half of the last row of the beak is hidden. With its tail, sew the hidden part to the back of the head, and from the front sew the edge of the head to it.
- Head: lay it on the body, the top of the breast and the upper right edge of the wing, right side up, turned as before, its magic ring ½ in (1.3 cm) to the right of the magic ring of the body and 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) above it. With its tail, sew it down all round where it lies on them.
- Eye: with E, work a large French knot on the head, ¼ in (0.6 cm) to the right of the magic ring of the head and 1/8 in (0.3 cm) above it.
- Legs and feet: with E, work two straight stitches straight down from the lower edge of the bird to the twig: one straight below the magic ring of the body, the other ½ in (1.3 cm) to the right of that. Each begins 7/8 in (2.2 cm) below the magic ring and ends on the twig, 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) below the magic ring. From the lower end of each leg work three straight stitches on the twig for the toes: one straight down, 1/8 in (0.3 cm) long, the other two to the left and to the right of it, each ending ¼ in (0.6 cm) to the side of the leg and 1¼ in (3.2 cm) below the magic ring.
- Leaves: lay them on the right-hand end of the twig, right sides up. The base of the first leaf is 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) to the right of the magic ring of the body and 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) below it, and its tip points up and to the right, 5/8 in (1.6 cm) to the right of its base and 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) above it. The base of the second leaf is 2 in (5.1 cm) to the right of the magic ring and 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) below it, and its tip points out to the right, 1¼ in (3.2 cm) to the right of its base and 1/8 in (0.3 cm) lower than it. Sew each leaf down with its tail where it lies on the twig.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 10 pieces.

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