Brain plush

US terms



Finished size
About 4¾ in (12 cm) from front to back, 4½ in (11.5 cm) tall with its stem and 2½ in (6.3 cm) thick

Skill
Intermediate
Four pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Light (3), 5 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

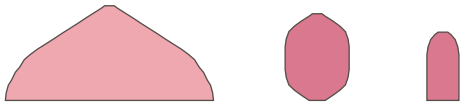
Yarn A: pink, brain side	**about 100 yd (91 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: raspberry, the details	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: rose, cerebellum, stem and the details	**about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: charcoal, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: coral, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 60 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, 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.

The pieces



Brain side x 2 **Cerebellum** **Stem**

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.
- The face is meant to be kind, not needed: leave out the eyes, the cheeks and the mouth if you like, and work lines 12 and 13 on both sides then. Everything else stays the same.
- 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.
- Brain side: the center line runs between stitches 39 and 40 of round 15 (78 sts). It faces the front, round 1 in the middle of the outer side.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the plush. 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 (charcoal).
- 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.
- Large: medium (4, worsted) yarn, 3.5 mm (E-4) hook, 20 sc and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 5¾ in (14.5 cm) from front to back, 5½ in (14 cm) tall with its stem and 3 in (7.6 cm) thick; eyes 12 mm; multiply lengths by 1.2; about 1.2 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): 10¼ in (26 cm) from front to back, 9¾ in (25 cm) tall with its stem and 5½ in (14 cm) thick; eyes 22 mm; multiply lengths by 2.2; about 2.2 times the yarn.

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Instructions

US terms.

sc single crochet (UK double crochet), **MR** magic ring, **Rnd** round, **st** stitch.
sc2tog 2 sc made into one. **BLO**: only the loop away from you. **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**.

Brain side: make 2

Yarn A, pink.

Each brain side is a bowl: round 1 is the middle of its outer side and the last round is the edge where the two sides meet. One is the face side, the other the plain side. Its center line runs to the front of the brain. Hold a side with round 1 toward you and turn it so that the center line points straight to the right on the face side and straight to the left on the plain side: up along a round is then toward the top of the brain, down toward its underside.

☐ **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**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(66 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in each st around	(66 sc)
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 14**	Sc in each st around	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 11 sts**] 6 times**	(78 sc)

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 39 and 40 of round 15. It faces the front, round 1 in the middle of the outer side.

☐ **Rnds 16 to 17**	Sc in each st around	(78 sc)

16 17

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 40 in (102 cm) tail on one brain side for sewing; weave in the end of the other. Fix the eyes now (see Finishing). Do this before you stuff the piece or sew it on. Both eyes are on the face side; the plain side has none. Do not stuff it yet.

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Cerebellum

Yarn C, rose.

☐ **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 BLO of each st around	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnds 6 to 11**	Repeat rnd 5. (24 sc) 6 7 8 9 10 11 Stuff firmly now, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.	
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**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. The front loops of rounds 4 to 10 stay free on the outside and stand up as ridges.	

Stem

Yarn C, rose.

☐ **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)
☐ **Rnds 3 to 10**	Sc in each st around 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	(12 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

Assembly

1. Sew the two brain sides together: hold them with their last rounds edge to edge, right sides out, center line to center line, and sew stitch to stitch all the way round (78 sts) with the tail, through both loops of each stitch. Stuff firmly, a little at a time, before the last 14 stitches. Shape it with your hands, flatter underneath than on top, until it is about 4¾ in (12 cm) from front to back, 3 3/8 in (8.6 cm) tall and 2½ in (6.4 cm) thick.

2. Set the cerebellum under the back of the brain: the middle of its round 1 lies on the seam, 29 stitches down from the center lines. Its flat end, rounds 1 to 4 (about 1¼ in, 32 mm, across), lies against the brain and covers about the 25th to the 33rd stitch of the seam, counted down from the center lines. It points down and a little back, and its ridges run round it. Sew it to the brain all the way round along round 4 with a new length of C (rose), going round twice.

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3. Pin the stem to the underside of the brain, in front of the cerebellum: the middle of the open edge (12 sts) lies on the seam, 22 stitches down from the center lines, so that the edge, about 5/8 in (16 mm) across, covers about the 20th to the 24th stitch of the seam, counted in the same way. It points straight down and bends a little toward the back (nothing holds the bend). Sew all the way round with the tail, adding stuffing before the last few stitches.

4. The brain lies on its plain side with the face up, or leans against a cushion or a wall.

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.
- Fold lines: with B (raspberry), doubled, in backstitch, each stitch about ¼ in (6 mm) long. Lines 1 to 11 are the same on both brain sides, like a mirror image. They are given by their places in order, each by the round of the brain side and the stitches up or down from its center line; mark the places with pins, run the line through them in soft curves, from each place to the next by the shorter way, and draw each stitch up firmly, so that the line sinks in and the fabric puffs up beside it. Line 1: round 16, 15½ up; round 13, 14½ up; round 12, 10½ up; round 9, 8½ up; round 9, 11½ up. Line 2: round 16, 21 up; round 13, 20½ up; round 11, 16 up; round 8, 13½ up. Line 3: round 16, 26 up; round 13, 24½ up; round 13, 27 up; round 9, 20 up; round 10, 19½ up. Line 4: round 16, 32 up; round 14, 29 up; round 12, 29 up; round 9, 23½ up. Line 5: round 16, 38 up; round 13, 35 up; round 13, 34½ down; round 10, 29 down. Line 6: round 16, 10 up; round 14, 9 up; round 13, 6½ up; round 10, 5½ up. Line 7: round 16, 4 up; round 13, 4 up; round 12, 1½ up; round 9, 1½ up. Line 8: round 16, 2½ down; round 13, 2½ down; round 12, 4 down; round 9, 3½ down. Line 9: round 16, 8½ down; round 12, 7 down; round 11, 9½ down; round 8, 8 down; round 8, 10½ down. Line 10: round 16, 34 down; round 13, 31 down; round 12, 26 down; round 9, 21 down. Line 11: round 14, 13 down; round 11, 14 down; round 12, 17 down; round 10, 18 down; round 12, 21½ down. On the plain side, where there is no face, work two more. Line 12: round 5, 1½ up; round 4, 4 up; round 2, 4½ up; round 5, 12 up. Line 13: round 5, 2½ down; round 2, 1½ down; round 4, 7½ down; round 5, 13 down.
- Eyes: two 10 mm black plastic eyes on the face side on round 5 (30 sts), one 1 stitch up from the center line and one 14 stitches up from it (13 stitches apart).
- Mouth: with D (charcoal), in backstitch, a smile on the face side, one curve about ½ in (13 mm) wide that dips 3/16 in (5 mm) below its ends. Its two ends are on round 2 (12 sts), one 1 stitch down from the center line and one 5 stitches down from it.
- Cheeks: with E (coral), in satin stitch, two ovals about 5/16 in (8 mm) wide and 3/16 in (5 mm) tall on the face side, their middles on round 7 (42 sts), one 2½ stitches down from the center line and one 18½ stitches down from it.
- 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: 4 pieces; 2,058 stitches (840 in each brain side, 264 in the cerebellum, 114 in the stem).

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

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