Cactus applique

US terms



Finished size
About 3¾ in (10 cm) wide and about 6¼ in (16 cm) tall

Skill
Easy
Worked in rows and rounds, with 6 pieces and color changes.

Yarn
Medium (4), 4 colors

Hook
5 mm (US H-8)

Gauge
14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: cactus green, the body and the arms	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: terracotta, the pot and the rim	**about 8 yd (7 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: hot pink, the flower	**about 4 yd (4 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: cream, the spines	**about 2 yd (2 m), an estimate**

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8). 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. Yarns A, B and C: the estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added. Yarn D: 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.

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)
rem	remaining
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side

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Gauge

14 stitches and 15 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.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches are not counted.
- The pieces worked in rows look much alike on both sides: take either side as the right side.
- The 4 hdc of an arm are its tip. When you pin the arms out for blocking, bend each to the shape of an L, one to the left and one to the right: the third of its length next to the plain end lies level, and the rest stands up.
- 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.
- 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 4¼ in (11 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 4¾ in (12 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 8 in (20 cm).

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 row is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, hdc is half treble and dc is treble.

Body

Yarn A, cactus green.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 13.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next 10 chs, 5 hdc in next ch, working along the other side of the chain, hdc in next 10 chs, sc in next ch	**(2 sc, 25 hdc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next 11 sts, 2 sc in each of next 5 sts, sc in next 11 sts	**(32 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 50 in (127 cm) tail, for sewing the whole applique to your project.	

Arm: make 2

Yarn A, cactus green.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 9.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 6 chs, 4 hdc in next ch, working along the other side of the chain, sc in next 7 chs	**(14 sc, 4 hdc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing.	

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Pot

Yarn B, terracotta.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 8.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each rem ch across	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Rows 5 to 6**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(11 sc)**

A box for each row, 5 to 6: tick them off as you go.

☐ 5 ☐ 6

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing.	

Rim

Yarn B, terracotta.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 14.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each rem ch across	**(13 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(13 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing.	

Flower

Yarn C, hot pink.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 5 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**(sl st, hdc, 2 dc, hdc, sl st) in next st**] 5 times**	**(10 hdc, 10 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing.	

Finishing

- Block: pin the pieces to shape on a flat surface, spray them with water and let them dry.
- Sew the rim across the top of the pot (Row 6), level with its top edge and the same amount past it at both sides.
- Hold the cactus with its rounded end (5 hdc) at the top. Lay the top of the pot over the middle of its lower end, so that 3/8 in (1 cm) of the cactus is hidden, and sew the rim to the cactus.
- Sew the arms behind the sides of the cactus, tips up, 3/8 in (1 cm) of the plain end of each hidden: the lower edge of one arm ¼ in (0.6 cm) above the rim, and of the other 7/8 in (2.2 cm) above it.
- Sew the flower to the front, its middle on the top edge of the cactus.
- With D, work eight short straight stitches for spines, each upright and 1/8 in (0.3 cm) long, spread evenly over the cactus.
- To sew the applique to your project, pin it where it is to go and sew round its edge with the long tail, under the outermost strands of the stitches; where a part is of another color, use a length of that color.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 6 pieces; 204 stitches (59 in the body, 18 in each arm, 58 in the pot, 26 in the rim, 25 in the flower); 14 ends to weave in.

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

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