Cactus pillow

US terms



Finished size
About 18 in (46 cm) tall with the pot and the flower; pot about 5 in (13 cm) tall and 8 in (20 cm) across at the rim; column about 5 in (13 cm) across

Skill
Easy
Ribs worked in rows, rounds that grow, and pieces to sew on

Yarn
Medium (4), 6 colors

Hook
4.5 mm (US 7)

Gauge
15 stitches and 12½ rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In ribbed half double crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: fern, main	**about 270 yd (247 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: terracotta, the pot and the rim	**about 200 yd (183 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: warm white, flower middle, round 3	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: pink, the flower	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: honey, flower middle, rounds 1 to 2	**about 2 yd (2 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: chocolate, the soil	**about 55 yd (50 m), an estimate**

Hook: 4.5 mm (US 7), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, a tape measure and about 12 pins, polyester fiberfill (stuffing): about 16 oz (450 g) and a round of firm cardboard or plastic canvas, 5½ in (14 cm) across, for the floor of the pot.

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 15 percent added.

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Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

ch	chain stitch
sl st	slip stitch: insert hook in the place named, yo, pull through it and the loop on hook (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)
BLO	back loop only: the loop of the top farther from you
Rnd	round
RS	right side
sk	skip (UK miss)
st	stitch
yo	yarn over (UK yrh, yarn round hook)

Gauge

15 stitches and 12½ rows to 4 in (10 cm) in ribbed half double crochet.

Begin with the arm and check it there, laid flat and not stretched, when 10 rows are done: the 30 stitches of a row are about 8 in (20 cm) long, and the 10 rows are about 3¼ in (8.5 cm) wide. If they measure more, start again with a smaller hook; if they measure less, with a larger one. The cloth should be close enough to hide the stuffing.

Before you start

- The ch 1 at the start of a row or a round does not count as a stitch.
- Working in the back loop leaves a ridge on every second row, on both sides: the rows become ribs.
- Leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) when you begin and when you fasten off, unless another length is given. The ends that are not sewn with are woven in.
- When a ball runs out, work the last yarn over of a stitch with the next ball, and leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) on both.
- Whip stitch: with the yarn on a yarn needle, pass the needle through the edge of one piece and through the edge that lies against it, and pull the yarn through. Do the same in the next stitch of each edge. On an edge of stitches the needle goes under both loops of the stitch; on a foundation chain under the two strands of the chain that are left free; on a side edge, which has no loops, through the end stitch of the row. Where a piece is laid on the middle of another, the needle goes through the edge of the piece laid on, in one of these three ways, and then under two strands of the cloth right beside that edge. Fasten a length where the sewing begins and where it ends: sew 2 or 3 times into the same place.
- Magic ring: wind the yarn once round two fingers, put the hook through the ring and pull up a loop of the working yarn. Round 1 begins with this loop on the hook. Work round 1 into the ring, over both strands, then pull the tail to close it.
- In joined rounds, the first stitch of a round goes into the same stitch as the joining sl st (in round 1, the same chain). The joining sl st itself is not a stitch and is not worked into.
- The right side of a round is the side that faces you as you work it.
- A straight stitch is one stitch from the first place named to the second.
- In the flower middle make the joining sl st at the end of round 2 with C, and cut E with a tail of about 6 in (15 cm).
- The spines are soft yarn. For a child under three sew the flower down twice.

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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 row 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 sk is miss.

Column

Yarn A, fern.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 47.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(46 hdc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 48**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of each st across	**(46 hdc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 48: tick them off as you go.

2 3 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 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 42 in (107 cm) to sew with.	

Arm: make 2

Yarn A, fern.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 31.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(30 hdc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 20**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of each st across	**(30 hdc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 20: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 30 in (76 cm) to sew with.	

Pot

Yarn B, terracotta.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1, 6 sc in ring; join with sl st in first sc	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(66 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 12**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(72 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(78 sc)**

The wall of the pot: the ridge of round 14 is its lower edge

☐ **Rnd 14**	Ch 1, sc in BLO of each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(78 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 15 to 19**	Ch 1, sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(78 sc)**

A box for each round, 15 to 19: tick them off as you go.

15 16 17 18 19

☐ **Rnd 20**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(84 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 21 to 25**	Ch 1, sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(84 sc)**

A box for each round, 21 to 25: tick them off as you go.

21 22 23 24 25

☐ **Rnd 26**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(90 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 27 to 31**	Ch 1, sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(90 sc)**

A box for each round, 27 to 31: tick them off as you go.

27 28 29 30 31

☐ **Rnd 32**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(96 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 33 to 35**	Ch 1, sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(96 sc)**

A box for each round, 33 to 35: tick them off as you go.

33 34 35

☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Rim

Yarn B, terracotta.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 102, join with sl st in first ch to make a loop, without twisting the chain.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1, sc in each ch around; join with sl st in first sc	**(102 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 2 to 7**	Ch 1, sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(102 sc)**

A box for each round, 2 to 7: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5 6 7

☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Soil

Yarn F, chocolate.

☐ **Foundation**	With F, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1, 6 sc in ring; join with sl st in first sc	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(24 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(66 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(72 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(78 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 12 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(84 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(90 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 14 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(96 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Flower

Yarn D, pink.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1, 6 sc in ring; join with sl st in first sc	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, sk next st, 7 tr in next st, sk next st**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(6 sc, 42 tr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 20 in (51 cm) to sew with.	

Flower middle

Yarns in order of use: E, honey; C, warm white.

☐ **Foundation**	With E, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1, 6 sc in ring; join with sl st in first sc	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	With C, ch 1, **[**sc in next st, 5 dc in next st**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(6 sc, 30 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 22 in (56 cm) to sew with.	

Assembly

1. Weave in the ends that are not sewn with. The ribs of the column and of the arms run along the rows. The foot is the edge where row 1 begins, and the long tail hangs there too; the top is the edge with the tail of the foundation chain. Stitches are counted from the foot: stitch 1 is at the foot and the last stitch at the top.

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2. Spines, on the column and the arms while they lie flat with the right side up: each is a V of two straight stitches that meet below; up means toward the top of the cactus. Work them in C on the tops of the rows named, each side of the V 2 stitches long: from the stitch named up and to the left, and from the same stitch up and to the right, one row to each side. On the column, rows 2, 10, 18, 26, 34 and 42: at stitches 8, 16, 24, 32 and 38; rows 6, 14, 22, 30, 38 and 46: at stitches 12, 20, 28 and 36. Leave out five of these Vs, because the arms are sewn there: stitch 16 of row 10, stitch 20 of row 14, stitches 8 and 16 of row 34 and stitch 12 of row 38. On each arm, rows 2 and 18: at stitches 8, 16 and 24; row 10: at stitch 24; rows 6 and 14: at stitches 12 and 20. Cut 10 strands of C, each about 50 in (127 cm) long. One strand does two of the rows named on the column, rows 2 and 6 first; on each arm one does rows 2 and 6 and another rows 10, 14 and 18. Carry the yarn loosely on the wrong side from V to V, and weave in both ends of each strand there.

3. Column: lay the last row against the foundation chain with the wrong sides inside, and with its tail whip stitch them together, stitch to chain, from the foot to the top: 46 stitches. Cut a length of A about 34 in (86 cm) long. At the top run the needle in and out through the ends of the 48 rows, one stitch in each, draw the yarn up as tight as it goes, and go round once more. Fasten it. Stuff the column firmly.

4. Arms: sew and close each in the same way, 30 stitches, with a length of A about 22 in (56 cm) long for the top of each. Stuff them. The bend: with a length of A about 14 in (36 cm) long for each arm, fastened at stitch 4 of row 10, which lies opposite the seam, run the needle in and out along that row to stitch 18, one stitch in every stitch: 15 stitches, about 4 in (10 cm). Draw the yarn up until they are only about ¾ in (2 cm) long, and fasten it. The arm now bends up nearly at a right angle.

5. Pot: turn it so that the right side is outside, and put the round of cardboard on the floor of the pot. Rim: put it round the top of the pot, right side outside, with its last round level with the last round of the pot. Cut a length of B about 84 in (213 cm) long. Whip stitch the two last rounds together: the pot has 96 stitches and the rim 102, so take two stitches of the rim together with every 16th of the pot: 96 stitches. The lower edge of the rim stays free.

6. Soil: stuff the pot firmly. Lay the soil on it with its right side up. Cut a length of F about 80 in (203 cm) long. Whip stitch its 96 stitches to the 96 stitches of the last round of the pot, inside the rim; push in more stuffing before the last 20.

7. Set the column on the soil with its open foot round the ring. Cut a length of A about 80 in (203 cm) long. Whip stitch the ends of its 48 rows to round 8 of the soil, which has 48 stitches, one to one: 48 stitches. Push in more stuffing before the last 12, so that it stands straight, and go round once more.

8. Arms: choose the front of the pot, with the seam of the column at the back. Set the open end of one arm, its tip up, on the left side of the column, from the top of row 9 to the top of row 15 (3 ribs) and from stitch 15 up to stitch 23, and that of the other on the right side, from the top of row 33 to the top of row 39 and from stitch 9 up to stitch 17. The gathered side of each is on top. Cut a length of A about 30 in (76 cm) long for each arm. Whip stitch the ends of the 20 rows to the column: 20 stitches, and go round once more.

9. Flower: run the tail of the flower along its wrong side from the last round to round 2. Lay the flower middle on the flower, right sides up, ring on ring, and with its tail sew each of the 6 sc of its last round to the flower below: 6 stitches. Set the flower on the top of the column, so that the ring of the flower lies on the middle of the gathered row ends. Lift the petals and sew from below with the tail of the flower: one stitch under each of the 12 stitches of round 2, where they show on the wrong side, and into the top of the column: 12 stitches. Bend the petals up.

Finishing

- Weave in what is left of the sewing lengths: take each end once into the pillow and out again a few inches away, pull it a little and cut it, so that it slips back inside.

In all: 8 pieces; 7,542 stitches (2,208 in the column, 600 in each arm, 2,442 in the pot, 714 in the rim, 816 in the soil, 108 in the flower, 54 in the flower middle).

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

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