Cactus toilet paper cover

US terms



Finished size
About 6¼ in (16 cm) tall, its pot about 16 in (40.5 cm) round without the rim, for a roll about 14 in (35.5 cm) to 15½ in (39.5 cm) round and 4 in (10 cm) tall

Skill
Easy
It is worked in rounds from the top down, with post stitches for the ribs and two arms and a flower sewn on.

Yarn
Medium (4), 4 colors

Hook
5 mm (US H-8)

Gauge
14 stitches and 11 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In half double crochet (UK half treble).

What you need

Yarn A: cactus green, the cactus and its arms	**about 110 yd (101 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: terracotta, the pot	**about 55 yd (50 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: pink, the flower	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: cream, the spines and the middle of the flower	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 90 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8). Also: a small handful of toy stuffing, for the arms, a stitch marker, pins, a yarn needle, scissors and a tape measure.

Gauge

14 stitches and 11 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in half double crochet.

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. The gauge is checked on the piece itself: after round 4 the cactus should measure about 3 in (7.5 cm) across, laid flat and not stretched. If the piece measures more than that, begin again with a smaller hook; if it measures less, with a larger hook.

14 stitches and 15 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet, worked in the round. The ribs are counted at the same gauge as half double crochet, smoothed out flat.

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Instructions

US terms.

hdc half double crochet (UK htr), **ch** chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK dc), **dc** double crochet (UK tr), **BPhdc** hdc round the stitch below, hook in and out at the back, **st** stitch.
2 hdc in next st: **both in one stitch**.
Rounds run in a **spiral**: mark the first stitch and move the marker up each round. **Working in the round**
[ ] 8 times: 8 times in all. ( ) in one place: all of it there. (16 hdc, 8 BPhdc): the round now has that many; a check, not a step.
Also: RS right side, yo yarn over.
Every stitch, drawn: flossfield.com/crochet/stitches.

Cactus

Yarn A, cactus green.

The lines of BPhdc stand one over another from round 3 to the last round. They are the valleys between the eight ribs.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring. *Begin with a magic ring: wind the yarn once round two fingers, put the hook through the ring, draw up a loop and chain 1 to hold it, which does not count as a stitch. Work round 1 into the ring, then pull the tail to draw the ring closed.*	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	8 hdc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(8 hdc)
☐ **Round 2**	2 hdc in each st around	(16 hdc)
☐ **Round 3**	**[**2 hdc in next st, BPhdc around next st**] 8 times**	(16 hdc, 8 BPhdc)
☐ **Round 4**	**[**Hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, BPhdc around next st**] 8 times**	(24 hdc, 8 BPhdc)

> **Stop and measure now, after round 4.** The cactus should measure about 3 in (7.5 cm) across. Larger? Begin again with a smaller hook. Smaller? A larger hook.

☐ **Round 5**	**[**Hdc in next 3 sts, BPhdc around next st**] 8 times**	(24 hdc, 8 BPhdc)
☐ **Round 6**	**[**Hdc in next 2 sts, 2 hdc in next st, BPhdc around next st**] 8 times**	(32 hdc, 8 BPhdc)
☐ **Round 7**	**[**Hdc in next 4 sts, BPhdc around next st**] 8 times**	(32 hdc, 8 BPhdc)
☐ **Round 8**	**[**Hdc in next 3 sts, 2 hdc in next st, BPhdc around next st**] 8 times**	(40 hdc, 8 BPhdc)
☐ **Round 9**	**[**Hdc in next 5 sts, BPhdc around next st**] 8 times**	(40 hdc, 8 BPhdc)
☐ **Round 10**	**[**Hdc in next 4 sts, 2 hdc in next st, BPhdc around next st**] 8 times**	(48 hdc, 8 BPhdc)
☐ **Rounds 11 to 17** 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	**[**Hdc in next 6 sts, BPhdc around next st**] 8 times**	(48 hdc, 8 BPhdc)
☐	Slip stitch in the back loop only of the next stitch to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Pot

Yarn B, terracotta.

Join B with a slip stitch in the back loop of the first stitch of round 17 of the cactus, the one with the last slip stitch in it. Round 1 is worked into the back loop only of every stitch of round 17, the first one into the loop where B is joined; the front loops stay free for the rim. Go on in the same direction, with the right side toward you and the dome pointing down.

☐ **Start**	The back loops of round 17 of the cactus, RS facing; 56 stitches.	
☐ **Rounds 1 to 4 (RS)** 1 2 3 4	Ch 2, hdc in each st around, sl st in first hdc to join	(56 hdc)

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☐ **Round 5**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(56 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Rim of the pot

Yarn B, terracotta.

Hold the cover as for the pot. Join B with a slip stitch in the free front loop of the first stitch of round 17 of the cactus. Work round 1 into the front loops, the first stitch into the loop where B is joined, in the same direction as the pot. The rim lies over the outside of the pot.

☐ **Start**	The free front loops of round 17 of the cactus, RS facing; 56 stitches.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 8 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(64 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	Ch 2, hdc in each st around, sl st in first hdc to join	(64 hdc)
☐ **Round 3**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(64 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Arm: make 2

Yarn A, cactus green.

Weave the tail of the ring in on the wrong side. Rounds 6 to 8 are taller on the side of the dc, so the arm bends there: the dc are on the outside of the bend. The two arms are the same. Put a little stuffing in each arm, so that it is softly filled.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	**[**Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(9 sc)
☐ **Rounds 3 to 5** 3 4 5	**[**Hdc in next 2 sts, BPhdc around next st**] 3 times**	(6 hdc, 3 BPhdc)
☐ **Rounds 6 to 8** 6 7 8	Dc in next 5 sts, sc in next 4 sts	(5 dc, 4 sc)
☐ **Round 9**	Sc in each st around	(9 sc)
☐	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 16 in (40 cm) for sewing.	

Flower

Begin with yarn D, cream.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	With C, 2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 3**	**[**(Hdc, 2 dc, hdc) in next st, sl st in next st**] 6 times**	(12 hdc, 12 dc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 16 in (40 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Weave in all the tails but those of the arms and the flower on the wrong side.

2. Find the front. Rib 1 is the rib that round 17 began with. Count the ribs in the direction in which the rounds were worked, rib 1 to rib 8. Rib 5 is the middle of the front, and ribs 3 and 7 are at the two sides.

3. The spines, before the arms are on. With D in the needle, embroider V shapes on the ribs, on the right side. Each V is two straight stitches (straight stitch: one long stitch, up at one end and down at the other), each about ½ in

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(1.5 cm) long. Both begin at the same place, in the middle of the rib, between its third and fourth stitches. One goes up and to the left, the other up and to the right, and their upper ends are two stitches apart. On each of the eight ribs the lower points of the Vs are at the lower edges of rounds 10, 13 and 16, as the cover stands. On ribs 3 and 7 work only the V of round 16, because the arms go above it. Use several lengths of D about 24 in (60 cm) long. Carry the yarn on the inside from one V to the next, and fasten all ends on the inside.

4. Pin an arm to rib 3. Its open end is flat against the rib, with its middle on round 13, the tip points up toward the top of the cactus, and the bend, with the dc, is at the bottom. Pin the other arm to rib 7 in the same way, but with the middle of its open end on round 11, so that it stands higher. With its tail whip stitch each arm down all round, right side out, 9 stitches, one for each stitch of its last round. Fasten off on the inside.

5. Weave the starting tail of the flower and the two tails of its color change in on its wrong side. Lay the flower on the dome with its right side up, its middle on round 4 in the line of rib 5. With its tail sew it down all round under the petals, through the 12 stitches of its round 2 and the dome beneath, one small stitch for each. Leave the petals free. Fasten off on the inside.

Finishing

- Weave all the tails that are left in on the inside.

In all: 4 pieces; 1,406 stitches (736 in the cactus, 280 in the pot, 192 in the rim of the pot, 78 in each arm, 42 in the flower).

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.

Notes

- The rounds of the cactus and of the arms and of the flower are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round.
- The rounds of the pot and of the rim are joined with a slip stitch in their first stitch. The chain at the start of a round of the pot or the rim does not count as a stitch: work the first stitch into the stitch the round before was joined in.
- BPhdc: yarn over, put the hook in from the back round the upright of the stitch below and out to the back again, draw up a loop, yarn over and pull through all 3 loops on the hook.
- In the flower draw C through as the last yarn over of the last stitch of round 1, and cut D, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- Measure round the roll of paper and measure its height. For a taller or a lower roll work more or fewer rounds of hdc (UK htr) in the pot: 3 rounds are about 1 in (2.5 cm) and take about 21 yd (19 m) of B. Keep the rim as it is. The dome stands up by itself above the roll; if it sinks, put a ball of tissue paper under it.
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug.
- Colors. The cactus and the arms are A, the pot and its rim are B, the petals are C, and the spines and the middle of the flower are D.

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

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