Chicken purse

Grown-up · US terms



Finished size

About 11¼ in (28.5 cm) long from end to end and 6 in (15 cm) tall without the head and the tail, with an opening about 7¼ in (18.5 cm) long and a strap about 19¾ in (50 cm) long

Skill

Intermediate

The body is plain double crochet in joined rounds; the head is stuffed, and the wings and tail are small scalloped fans sewn on.

Yarn

Medium (4), 6 colors

Hook

5 mm (US H-8)

Gauge

14 stitches and 16 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: speckled cream, the body and the head	**about 150 yd (137 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: rust brown, the wings and the tail	**about 50 yd (46 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: golden tan, the second layer of the wings and the tail	**about 30 yd (27 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: barn red, the comb and the wattles	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: mustard, the beak	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: dark brown, the eyes	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 130 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Fiber: cotton or wool

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a handful of toy stuffing, a wooden button 1 in (25 mm) across, 2 stitch markers, pins, a yarn needle and scissors.

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.

Sizes

Size	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Child	8 in (20.5 cm) long, 4¼ in (11 cm) tall	about 155 yd (142 m)
Grown-up (this file)	**11¼ in (28.5 cm) long, 6 in (15 cm) tall**	**about 250 yd (229 m)**

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Gauge

14 stitches and 16 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

14 stitches and 8 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in double crochet, worked in the round.

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 circle should measure about 4¼ in (11 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.

Notes

- Begin with a magic ring: wind the yarn once round two fingers, put the hook through the ring and draw up a loop. Where round 1 does not begin with a chain, chain 1 to hold the loop, which does not count as a stitch. Work round 1 into the ring, then pull the tail to draw the ring closed.
- The rounds of the body are joined with a slip stitch. The chain of 3 at the start of a round counts as its first double crochet; the chain of 1 does not count as a stitch. The right side, the outside, faces you all the time.
- The rounds of the head, the beak, the wattles and the eyes are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round.
- The comb, the wings and the tail fans are worked in rows. The chain at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.
- A shell is 5 dc in one stitch.
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug.
- To sew a piece down flat: bring the needle up through the piece under the top of a stitch at its edge and down through the fabric beneath just outside the edge, one stitch for each stitch or row of the edge.
- The purse has a button and small parts: it is not for a child under three.
- Colors. A: the body and the head. B: the large wings and the large tail fans. C: the small wings and the small tail fans. D: the comb and the wattles. E: the beak. F: the eyes. The strap has a chain of each of A, B and C.

Instructions

Grown-up. US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **MR** magic ring, **st** stitch, **rnd** round.
sk skip, **RS** right side, the one that shows.
2 dc in next st: both in one stitch. **dc in each of next 11 sts**: one in each.
[ ] 11 times: work what is inside 11 times in all.
(12 dc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Body

Yarn A, speckled cream.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 11 dc in MR, pull the tail to close the ring, sl st in top of ch-3 to join (12 dc)

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☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in same st, 2 dc in each of next 11 sts, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	(24 dc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in same st, dc in next st, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next st**] 11 times**, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	(36 dc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in same st, dc in next 2 sts, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts**] 11 times**, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	(48 dc)

Stop and measure now, after round 4. The circle should measure about 4¼ in (11 cm) across.

☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in same st, dc in next 3 sts, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next 3 sts**] 11 times**, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	(60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in same st, dc in next 4 sts, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next 4 sts**] 11 times**, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	(72 dc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in same st, dc in next 5 sts, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next 5 sts**] 11 times**, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	(84 dc)

Sides

☐ **Rnds 8 to 14**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in next 83 sts, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	(84 dc)

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

☐ **Rnd 15**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(84 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Head and neck

Yarn A, speckled cream.

Begin at the top of the head.

☐ **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**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnds 5 to 8**	Sc in each st around	(24 sc)

5 6 7 8

Neck

☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**Sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	Sc in each st around	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**Sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in each st around	(30 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 40 in (101.5 cm) for sewing.	

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Beak

Yarn E, mustard.

Begin at the point. Do not stuff it.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(4 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(9 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 16 in (40.5 cm) for sewing.	

Comb

Yarn D, barn red.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 8.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(7 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**5 dc in next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**	(4 sc, 15 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 18 in (45.5 cm) for sewing.	

Wattle: make 2

Yarn D, barn red.

Press it flat; do not stuff it.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnds 2 to 3**	Sc in each st around	(6 sc)
2 3		
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 12 in (30.5 cm) for sewing.	

Eye: make 2

Yarn F, dark brown.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(5 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 12 in (30.5 cm) for sewing.	

Large wing: make 2

Yarn B, rust brown.

The wing begins at the shoulder, its narrow end. The shells of the last row are the tips of the feathers.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 6.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(5 sc)

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☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**2 dc in next st**] 4 times**	(9 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; dc in each st across	(9 dc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc in next st, 2 dc in next st**] 4 times**	(13 dc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 2, turn; dc in each st across	(13 dc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next st, 5 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**	(4 sc, 15 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Small wing: make 2

Yarn C, golden tan.

The wing begins at the shoulder, its narrow end. The shells of the last row are the tips of the feathers.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 6.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(5 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**2 dc in next st**] 4 times**	(9 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; dc in each st across	(9 dc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next st, 5 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**	(3 sc, 10 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Large tail fan: make 2

Yarn B, rust brown.

The fan begins at its foot. The shells of the last row are the tips of the feathers.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 7.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(6 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in each st across	(12 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next st, 2 dc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 dc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 6 times**	(24 dc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 2 sts, **[**sk next st, 5 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 2 sts	(9 sc, 25 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Small tail fan: make 2

Yarn C, golden tan.

The fan begins at its foot. The shells of the last row are the tips of the feathers.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 7.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(6 sc)

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☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in each st across	(12 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**5 dc in next st, sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in last st	(7 sc, 25 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Assembly

1. Weave in the tails of the body on the inside, the starting tails of the comb and the eyes on their wrong sides, and both tails of each wing and each fan on its wrong side. The starting tails of the head, the beak and the wattles stay inside these parts. The long tails are for sewing.

2. The fold. The right side is out. Number the 84 stitches of the rim from 1, the stitch of the join, in the direction you worked. Stitch 1 is at the tail end and stitch 43 at the head end: put a marker in each and lay the body flat, folded at these two. The rim is the back of the hen, with 41 stitches on each side of it between the markers.

3. The two ends. Cut 24 in (61 cm) of A for each end. At the tail end whip stitch the first 6 stitches of the one side, 2 to 7, to the 6 of the other side, 84 down to 79, one to one from the marker toward the middle, on the outside. At the head end sew 10 pairs in the same way: stitch 42 to stitch 44, and so on toward the middle to stitch 33 and stitch 53. Go through the last pair twice and draw the ends inside. Take both markers out. The opening between has 25 stitches on each side.

4. The head. The last stitch of the neck is at the middle of the back of the head; the line opposite is the middle of the front. Sew an eye to each side of the head, right side out, its middle on round 5, 4 stitches from the middle of the front, flat, with its own tail. Set the open edge of the beak on the middle of the front over rounds 5 to 7, its point straight out, and with its tail whip stitch its 9 stitches down in a circle. Press the open edges of the two wattles flat and sew them close together just below the beak, hanging down, with their own tails, 3 stitches through both layers of each. Lay the foundation edge of the comb along the middle of the top of the head, from round 3 at the front over the magic ring to the back, its scallops up, and with its tail whip stitch one side of that edge to the head and then the other. Draw all the ends inside. Stuff the head and the neck.

5. The neck goes over the corner at the head end, the beak away from the tail. The fold of the head end is the line down from the corner, stitch 43: it is the breast of the hen. Push the corner up into the open neck, and pin the edge of the neck to the body at four places. The last stitch of the neck, the middle of its back, goes to the last pair of the seam at the head end, stitches 33 and 53. The 15th stitch of the neck, the middle of its front, goes to the fold, to the middle of round 10. The stitches half way between these two, the 8th and the 22nd, go to the two sides, to the middle of round 11, 7 stitches from the fold. Between the pins the edge runs in a round curve, as long as it is: nothing is stretched or gathered. With its long tail whip stitch the 30 stitches of the edge to the body along this curve, all round; before the last 4 stitches push in more stuffing, so that the neck is full and the head stands up, leaning a little forward. Fasten off inside the purse.

6. The tail. The foot of a fan is its foundation edge. For each fan cut 24 in (61 cm) of its own color, run the needle in and out through the 6 chains of the foot, pull them up to ½ in (1.5 cm), and take two stitches there to hold them; do not cut the rest of the length. Lay a small fan on each large one, right sides up, their feet together, and with the length of C whip stitch the foot of the small fan to the foot of the large one; fasten off on the wrong side of the large fan. The rest of the small fan stays free. One pair goes on each side of the corner at the tail end, right side out, so that the corner is between the two large fans: their feet are on the second round of double crochet below the rim, 2 stitches from the fold, and the fan slants: its middle shells point up and away from the head, half way between level and straight up. With the length of B of each large fan whip stitch its foot to the body, and then the first 1 in (2.5 cm) of each of its two straight edges. With what is left of one of these lengths sew the two large fans to each other, wrong sides together, with four small stitches between their shells, so that the tail stands. Fasten off inside.

7. The wings. Lay a small wing on each large one, both right sides up, their shoulders level and their middles together. Cut 18 in (45.5 cm) of C for each small wing and sew its shoulder, the 5 chains of its foundation, down flat on the large one, and then the ends of its first two rows on both sides. Fasten off on the wrong side of the large wing.

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Put a wing on each side of the body, right sides out, its shoulder toward the head and its shells toward the tail. Count on one side from the fold of the head end: the shoulder stands upright, 11 stitches from the fold, its middle on round 9, and the middle of the wing points to the tail and a little down, as the purse hangs. Cut 30 in (76 cm) of B for each wing, begin at the lower corner of the shoulder, and sew the 5 chains of the shoulder of the large wing down flat and then its upper edge, the ends of the rows, as far as the shells. The lower edge and the shells stay free. Fasten off inside the purse. The other wing is sewn in the same way on its side, so that it looks the same from there.

8. The button and the loop. The middle of the opening is at stitch 20 of the rim on the one side and at stitch 66 on the other. Sew the button with A straight below stitch 20, on the outside, on the last round of double crochet, going through it four times. For the loop join C with a slip stitch in stitch 66, chain 16, and slip stitch in the same stitch. Fasten off and weave in the ends on the inside.

9. The strap. Work three chains of 86, one in A, one in B and one in C, with 6 in (15 cm) of yarn left at both ends of each. Lay their beginnings side by side and knot the three tails together close to the chains. Braid the three chains: bring by turns the one at your right and the one at your left over the middle one, snug and flat, and knot the other three tails in the same way. The braid is about 19¾ in (50 cm) long. With the tails of one end, threaded on the needle one after the other, sew the knot to the inside of the opening at the tail end, beside the last pair of the seam, through both sides of the rim, 4 stitches with each tail. Sew the other end at the head end in the same way; see that the strap is not twisted. Fasten off on the inside.

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

Finishing

- Put a hand inside and round the body out, so that the hen sits on a broad base.

In all: 16 pieces; 1,865 stitches.

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

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