Christmas bells with bow

US terms



Finished size

Each bell about 3 1/8 in (7.9 cm) tall in the middle, without its clapper, and 3 3/8 in (8.6 cm) wide at the rim; the pair with its bow and leaves about 7 3/8 in (18.5 cm) wide and 6 7/8 in (17.5 cm) tall without its hanging loop

Skill

Easy

Worked in rows and rounds, with 13 pieces, color changes and 2 special stitches.

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: bell gold, rows 1 to 8 of the bells and the clappers	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: old gold, rows 9 to 11 of the bells	**about 7 yd (6 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: Christmas red, the bow halfs, the bow tails and the knot	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: holly green, the leaves	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8), or the size that gives you the gauge. 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. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches and chains 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)
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side
sp	space

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Special stitches

sc2tog (UK dc2tog): [insert the hook in the next stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop] twice (3 loops on the hook), yarn over and pull through all 3 loops. It leaves 1 st for the next row or round.

picot: Ch 3, sl st in the top of the stitch just made.

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.
- Fasten off the old color, then join the new one with a slip stitch in the place named; the first stitch or chain of the line is worked in that same place.
- 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, its picots and the chain spaces between them; slip stitches are not counted.
- A bell is worked from its top down to its rim. Row 1 and every odd row of a bell and of a bow half is the right side, so the rim of a bell, rows 9 to 11, begins and ends on a right-side row. The last row of the bell is taller in the middle, which makes the lower edge curve.
- Leave the tail at the beginning of each bell about 14 in (36 cm) long and the tail at the beginning of each bow half and each bow tail about 10 in (25 cm) long: these beginning tails hang at the foundation chain and sew the piece on. Weave in the tail at the other end.
- A bow half is worked from its narrow inner end, the foundation chain, to its wide outer end.
- A leaf begins and ends at its plain end; its tip is the (sc, ch 2, sc). Its picots are the points of the holly: two on each side.
- 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.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured over the pair the longest way: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 5 in (13 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 5¾ in (15 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 9½ in (24 cm).

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Instructions

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.

Bell: make 2

Yarns in order of use: A, bell gold; B, old gold.

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

A box for each row, 3 to 7: tick them off as you go.

☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7

☐ **Row 8**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(10 sc)**

Fasten off A.

☐ **Row 9**	Turn, join B with sl st in first st, ch 1, 2 sc in same st, sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next 3 sts, hdc in next 2 sts, dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next 2 sts, sc in next 3 sts	**(6 sc, 4 hdc, 2 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Clapper: make 2

Yarn A, bell gold.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 8 hdc in ring, sl st in first hdc to join	**(8 hdc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing.	

Bow half: make 2

Yarn C, Christmas red.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 4.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 2 chs	**(3 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Rows 5 to 7**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(7 sc)**

A box for each row, 5 to 7: tick them off as you go.

☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7

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☐ **Row 8**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog in next 2 sts, sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog in next 2 sts	**(2 sc2tog, 3 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Bow tail: make 2

Yarn C, Christmas red.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 4.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 2 chs	**(3 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 8**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(3 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 8: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

☐ **Row 9**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next st, sc2tog in next 2 sts	**(1 sc, 1 sc2tog)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Knot

Yarn C, Christmas red.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 10 hdc in ring, sl st in first hdc to join	**(10 hdc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing.	

Leaf: make 4

Yarn D, holly green.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 11.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next ch, dc in next ch, picot, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch, hdc in next ch, dc in next ch, picot, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch, (sc, ch 2, sc) in next ch, working along the other side of the chain, sc in next ch, hdc in next ch, dc in next ch, picot, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch, hdc in next ch, dc in next ch, picot, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch, sl st in first sc to join	**(8 sc, 8 hdc, 4 dc, 4 picots, 1 ch-2 sp)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing.	

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Finishing

- Block: pin the pieces to shape on a flat surface, spray them with water and let them dry.
- Clapper: lay a clapper, right side up, behind the rim of each bell, its magic ring on the middle line of the bell and 1/8 in (0.3 cm) beyond the middle of the lower edge of row 11, so that only its upper part, about 3/8 in (1 cm), lies behind row 11 and is hidden. With its tail sew that upper part to the back of row 11.
- Bow: lay the two bow halves side by side, right sides up, the foundation chain of each toward the other, so that the middles of the two chains touch. The place where they touch is the middle of the bow, and every distance below is taken from it. Raise the outer end of each half, so that the middle of its last row lies 3/8 in (1 cm) higher than the middle of the bow, and sew the two chains together where they touch with the beginning tail of one half; the beginning tail of the other sews the same place again from the back.
- Both sides of a bow tail look alike. Lay the two bow tails behind the bow halves, the foundation chain at the top, level with the middle of the bow, the middle of each chain 3/8 in (1 cm) to its own side of the middle line. Turn one tail over, so that on both the side that is shorter by the slanting last row is toward the middle line. Lean them out until the middle of row 8 of each is ¾ in (1.9 cm) from the middle line. Sew the foundation chain of each to the back of the bow half in front of it with its beginning tail.
- Lay the knot over the place where the bow halves touch, right side up, its magic ring on the middle of the bow, and sew it down all round its edge with its tail.
- Bells: lay the two bells behind the bow and its tails, right sides up, rims at the bottom. The middle of the top edge of each lies 1¼ in (3.2 cm) to its own side of the middle line and 3/8 in (1 cm) below the middle of the bow; the middle of its lower edge lies 2 1/8 in (5.4 cm) to the side and 3 3/8 in (8.6 cm) below. With its beginning tail sew the foundation chain of each bell, and the part of its two sides that lies behind the bow half, to the back of the bow half.
- Leaves: a leaf is about 3 in (7.6 cm) long from its plain end to its tip. Lay two leaves behind each bow half, right sides up, one over the other. Place each leaf by its tip, and turn it so that its plain end points at the middle of the bow; the plain end then lies behind the bow half, about ½ in (1.3 cm) from the middle of the bow. The tip of the first leaf lies 2 1/8 in (5.4 cm) to its own side of the middle line and 2 7/8 in (7.3 cm) above the middle of the bow. The second leaf lies behind the first, its tip 3 3/8 in (8.6 cm) to the side and 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) above. Sew each leaf to the back of the bow half with its tail, over the part of the leaf that lies behind the bow half.
- Hanging loop: with C, ch 30 (about 7 in (18 cm) of chain) and fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail at each end. Fold it in half, the fold straight up. Lay its two ends on the back of the bow, on top of everything that is sewn there, level with the middle of the bow, one end 1/8 in (0.3 cm) to each side of the middle line. Sew each end down with its tail, through all the layers that lie there and into the knot, so that no stitch shows on the front.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 13 pieces.

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