Christmas cat sweater

Medium · US terms



Finished size

About 13¾ in (35 cm) round the chest, 9¼ in (23.5 cm) round the neck and 11 in (28 cm) long from the top of the neck to the hem, for a cat 11½ in (29 cm) to less than 13½ in (34.5 cm) round the chest

Skill

Intermediate

It is worked in joined rounds with two colors in some of them, two leg openings and a post stitch rib.

Yarn

Light (3), 3 colors

Hook

3.5 mm (US E-4)

Gauge

21 stitches and 24 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: cherry red, the neck, the body and the tree trunks	**about 150 yd (137 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: snow white, the yoke and the dots	**about 60 yd (55 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: evergreen, the trees, the hem and the cuffs	**about 75 yd (69 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 110 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).

Fiber: wool or acrylic

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: 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
Kitten	9¼ in (23.5 cm) round the chest, 6¾ in (17 cm) round the neck, 8 in (20.5 cm) long from the top of the neck to the hem	about 145 yd (133 m)
Small	11½ in (29 cm) round the chest, 7½ in (19 cm) round the neck, 10 in (25.5 cm) long from the top of the neck to the hem	about 225 yd (206 m)
Medium (this file)	**13¾ in (35 cm) round the chest, 9¼ in (23.5 cm) round the neck, 11 in (28 cm) long from the top of the neck to the hem**	**about 285 yd (261 m)**

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Large	16 in (40.5 cm) round the chest, 10¾ in (27.5 cm) round the neck, 12½ in (32 cm) long from the top of the neck to the hem	about 380 yd (347 m)

Gauge

21 stitches and 24 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

21 stitches and 16 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in half double crochet, worked in the round. The rib is counted at the height of half double crochet (UK half treble), smoothed out but not stretched.

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 8 the yoke should measure about 13¾ in (35 cm) around, laid flat and not stretched, measured across and doubled. If the piece measures more than that, begin again with a smaller hook; if it measures less, with a larger hook.

Notes

- Join the foundation chain into a ring with a slip stitch, and take care that it is not twisted. The join of the rounds runs along the middle of the belly. The right side faces you in every round.
- Each round is joined with a slip stitch in its first stitch. The chain of 1 or 2 at the start of a round does not count as a stitch; work the first stitch of the round into the stitch the round before was joined in.
- A post stitch is worked round the upright of the stitch below, from the front (FP) or from the back (BP), not into its top.
- Measure the cat round the widest part of the chest, just behind the front legs, with the tape snug but not tight, and along the back from the base of the neck to the base of the tail. Choose the size whose range holds the measure of the chest. A measure on the border of two sizes takes the larger one.
- Tapestry crochet: where two or more colors share a round, lay the color or colors of that round not in use along the top of the round before and work over them, all the way round, so that they are carried inside the stitches.
- Where a color is new in a round of two colors, lay its end along the top from the start of the round. The chain of 1 at the start of a round is in the color of its first stitch. Keep the carried color loose enough for the fabric to stretch.
- Inside a round, draw the new yarn through as the last yarn over of the stitch before the change. To change where a joined round begins, draw it through as the last yarn over of the slip stitch that joins the round before. Where two or more colors share a round, cut nothing at a change: the color you leave is carried. Once a color is no longer in the rounds: where only one or two rounds are worked before it is used again, carry it loosely up the inside; where more are worked, or it is not used again, cut it, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- Let the cat wear it only while someone is with it. Take it off before the cat is left alone, goes outdoors or climbs.
- The rib stands up round the neck, and the rest of the sweater lies along the back, 9¾ in (25 cm) of it. The back should be at least 12 in (30.5 cm) long from the base of the neck to the base of the tail, so that the hem stays clear of it.
- Round 9 begins the trees: there are 6 of them, 12 stitches from middle to middle. The trees are 12 rounds tall, their tops toward the neck and the last two rounds their trunks. One plain white round follows them.
- Colors of the sweater, round by round. Rounds 1 to 5: A. Rounds 6 to 8: B. Rounds 9 to 18: B and C. Rounds 19 to 20: A and B. Round 21: B. Rounds 22 to 27: A. Rounds 28 to 29: A and B. Rounds 30 to 32: A. Rounds 33 to 34: A and B. Rounds 35 to 37: A. Rounds 38 to 39: A and B. Rounds 40 to 42: A. Rounds 43 to 44: A and B. Rounds 45 to 47: A. Rounds 48 to 49: A and B. Rounds 50 to 52: A. Rounds 53 to 54: A and B. Rounds 55 to 57: A. Rounds 58 to 61: C.

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Instructions

Medium. US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **st** stitch, **sp** space, **rnd** round.

FPhdc round the stitch below, from the front, **BPhdc** round the stitch below, from the back, **sk** skip, **yo** yarn over the hook, **RS** right side, the one that shows.

2 sc in next st: both in one stitch. **sc in next 3 sts**: one in each. **ch-12 sp**: the gap under twelve chains; the hook goes in the gap.

[ ] 24 times: work what is inside 24 times in all.

(48 hdc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Sweater

Yarns in order of use: A, cherry red; B, snow white; C, evergreen.

☐ **Foundation** — Ch 48, sl st in first ch to form a ring.

Neck

☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** — Ch 2, hdc in each ch around, sl st in first hdc to join — (48 hdc)

☐ **Rnds 2 to 5** — Ch 2, **[**FPhdc around next st, BPhdc around next st**] 24 times**, sl st in first FPhdc to join — (24 FPhdc, 24 BPhdc)

2 3 4 5

Yoke

☐ **Rnd 6** — With B, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join — (48 sc)

☐ **Rnd 7** — Ch 1, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 11 times**, sc in next 2 sts, sl st in first sc to join — (60 sc)

☐ **Rnd 8** — Ch 1, **[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 12 times**, sl st in first sc to join — (72 sc)

Stop and measure now, after round 8. The yoke should measure about 13¾ in (35 cm) around.

☐ **Rnds 9 to 10** — Ch 1,
[with C, sc in next st, with B, sc in next 10 sts, with C, sc in next st**] 6 times**,
sl st in first sc to join — (72 sc)

9 10

☐ **Rnds 11 to 12** — Ch 1,
[with C, sc in next 2 sts, with B, sc in next 8 sts, with C, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**,
sl st in first sc to join — (72 sc)

11 12

☐ **Rnds 13 to 14** — Ch 1,
[with C, sc in next 3 sts, with B, sc in next 6 sts, with C, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**,
sl st in first sc to join — (72 sc)

13 14

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☐ **Rnds 15 to 16** 15 16	Ch 1, **[**with C, sc in next 4 sts, with B, sc in next 4 sts, with C, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 17 to 18** 17 18	Ch 1, **[**with C, sc in next 5 sts, with B, sc in next 2 sts, with C, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 19 to 20** 19 20	Ch 1, **[**with A, sc in next st, with B, sc in next 10 sts, with A, sc in next st**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 21**	With B, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	With A, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)

Leg openings

☐ **Rnd 23**	Ch 1, sc in next 6 sts, ch 12, sk next 12 sts, sc in next 36 sts, ch 12, sk next 12 sts, sc in next 6 sts, sl st in first sc to join	(48 sc, 2 ch-12 sps)
☐ **Rnd 24**	Ch 1, sc in next 6 sts, 12 sc in next ch-12 sp, sc in next 36 sts, 12 sc in next ch-12 sp, sc in next 6 sts, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)

Body

☐ **Rnds 25 to 27** 25 26 27	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 28 to 29** 28 29	Ch 1, **[**with A, sc in next 5 sts, with B, sc in next 2 sts, with A, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 30 to 32** 30 31 32	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 33 to 34** 33 34	Ch 1, **[**with B, sc in next st, with A, sc in next 10 sts, with B, sc in next st**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 35**	With A, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 36 to 37** 36 37	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)

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☐ **Rnds 38 to 39** 38 39	Ch 1, **[**with A, sc in next 5 sts, with B, sc in next 2 sts, with A, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 40 to 42** 40 41 42	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 43 to 44** 43 44	Ch 1, **[**with B, sc in next st, with A, sc in next 10 sts, with B, sc in next st**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 45**	With A, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 46 to 47** 46 47	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 48 to 49** 48 49	Ch 1, **[**with A, sc in next 5 sts, with B, sc in next 2 sts, with A, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 50 to 52** 50 51 52	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 53 to 54** 53 54	Ch 1, **[**with B, sc in next st, with A, sc in next 10 sts, with B, sc in next st**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 55**	With A, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnds 56 to 57** 56 57	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(72 sc)

Hem

☐ **Rnd 58**	With C, ch 2, hdc in each st around, sl st in first hdc to join	(72 hdc)
☐ **Rnds 59 to 61** 59 60 61	Ch 2, **[**FPhdc around next st, BPhdc around next st**] 36 times**, sl st in first FPhdc to join	(36 FPhdc, 36 BPhdc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

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Cuff: make 2

Yarn C, evergreen.

Work a cuff round each leg opening. Round 23 of the sweater skipped 12 stitches there and made a chain of 12 over them, and round 24 worked 12 sc into that space. Where round 1 of the cuff says each st, the 24 places of the opening are meant, with one half double crochet (UK half treble) in each.

Hold the sweater right side out with the neck down. Join C with a slip stitch in the skipped stitch at the right end of the opening. Work 1 hdc in that stitch and in each of the other 11 skipped stitches. Turn the sweater so that the neck is up, and work the 12 places along the chain: put the hook through the fabric in the gap beside each of the 12 sc of round 24, under the chain, and out through the opening, and work 1 hdc over the chain. If a small hole is left at a corner, close it with the tail.

☐ **Foundation**	The edge of one leg opening, RS facing; join C in the skipped stitch at the right; 24 places: the 12 skipped stitches, then 12 along the ch-12 space.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 2, hdc in each st around, sl st in first hdc to join	(24 hdc)
☐ **Rnds 2 to 5** 2 3 4 5	Ch 2, **[**FPhdc around next st, BPhdc around next st**] 12 times**, sl st in first FPhdc to join	(12 FPhdc, 12 BPhdc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Putting it together

Weave in all the tails on the inside. The tails of A and of C, and the tails of B down to round 21, go each through the backs of five or six stitches of its own color, and then back through two of them. The dots of B on the body are too small for that. Run each tail of B from round 22 on inside the stitches of the round in which it hangs, beside the join: push the needle in through the backs of the next ten stitches of A, where the carried strand lies, then back through two of them, so that no white is seen on the right side.

Finishing

- Wash the sweater as the yarn band says, pat it to its size and dry it flat.

In all: 4,452 stitches (4,212 in the sweater, 120 in each cuff).

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

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