Christmas mouse ornament

US terms



Finished size
About 4 in (10 cm) wide across the ears and 5½ in (14 cm) long from the nose to the top of the tail

Skill
Intermediate
Worked in rows and rounds, with 8 pieces, color changes and 1 special stitch.

Yarn
Light (3), 5 colors

Hook
4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge
18 stitches and 19 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: mouse gray, the back, the front and round 3 of the ears	**about 30 yd (27 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: pink, rounds 1 and 2 of the ears	**about 6 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: white, rows 1 and 2 of the cap, the pompom and the white tail cord	**about 6 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: red, rows 3 to 7 of the cap and the red tail cord	**about 6 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: black, the sewn details	**about 2 yd (2 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 20 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking, a little toy stuffing, a stitch marker, a 3 5/8 in (9.2 cm) length of thin craft wire 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. Yarns A, B, C and D: the estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added. Yarn E: the estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

Gauge

18 stitches and 19 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.

Notes

- 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.

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- 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.
- At the start of a round, same st is the stitch the round before was joined in; after a new color is joined, it is the stitch the color was joined in.
- A round worked in each st around begins in the st the round before was joined in, or the new color was joined in.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches are not counted.
- Make all the other pieces before you work Rnd 5 of the front: Rnd 5 joins the front to the back, and FINISHING says when to work it. Leave the last loop of the front on a stitch marker after Rnd 4.
- The front and the back are ovals worked round a chain: the last 2 hdc of Rnd 1 are worked in the 2nd ch from hook too, where its first 2 hdc are. Each of their rounds begins at the top of the mouse, where the tail is, and the two dtr of Rnd 4, side by side at the other end, are the tip of the nose. The front and the back are the same from left to right, so that they lie one on the other with their wrong sides together.
- Row 1 of a tail cord ends in the ch that its foundation began with, so that both its ends of yarn are at one end. That end is the foot of the cord; the other end, the turn, is its tip.
- Row 1 of the cap and every odd-numbered row after it are worked with the right side facing. The foundation chain is the lower edge of its white band and Row 7 is its tip.
- In another yarn the wire and the sewing tails change in the same proportion too: the wire is then about 3 1/8 in (7.9 cm) long in fine yarn, 4 5/8 in (11.7 cm) in medium yarn and 5 7/8 in (14.9 cm) in bulky yarn.
- 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.
- French knot (sewn): bring the yarn needle up from the back, wrap the yarn twice round the needle close to the surface, hold the wraps and put the needle down beside the place where it came up. For a large knot use the yarn double and wrap it three times.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured from the nose to the top of the tail: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 4¾ in (12 cm); medium yarn (4) and a 5 mm hook, about 7¼ in (18 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 9¼ in (23 cm).

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Instructions

US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **tr** treble crochet (UK double treble), **dtr** double treble crochet (UK triple treble), **rem** remaining, **st** stitch, **rnd** round.

RS right side, the one that shows.

2 hdc in next st: both in one stitch. **hdc in next 3 sts**: one in each.

[ ] 4 times: work what is inside 4 times in all. **( )**: all of it goes into the one place.

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

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.

Back

Yarn A, mouse gray.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 6.
☐ **Rnd 1**	2 hdc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next 3 chs, 4 hdc in next ch, working along the other side of the chain, hdc in next 3 chs, 2 hdc in next ch, sl st in first hdc to join (14 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 hdc in same st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next 3 sts, 2 hdc in each of next 4 sts, hdc in next 3 sts, 2 hdc in each of next 2 sts, sl st in first hdc to join (22 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, hdc in same st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next 3 sts, **[**hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st**] 4 times**, hdc in next 3 sts, [hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st] twice, sl st in first hdc to join (30 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, sc in same st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st, 2 dc in next st, dc in next st, [2 tr in next st] twice, (tr, dtr) in next st, (dtr, tr) in next st, [2 tr in next st] twice, dc in next st, 2 dc in next st, hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, sl st in first sc to join (18 sc, 8 hdc, 6 dc, 10 tr, 2 dtr)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.

Front

Yarn A, mouse gray.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 6.
☐ **Rnd 1**	2 hdc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next 3 chs, 4 hdc in next ch, working along the other side of the chain, hdc in next 3 chs, 2 hdc in next ch, sl st in first hdc to join (14 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 hdc in same st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next 3 sts, 2 hdc in each of next 4 sts, hdc in next 3 sts, 2 hdc in each of next 2 sts, sl st in first hdc to join (22 hdc)

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☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, hdc in same st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next 3 sts, **[**hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st**] 4 times**, hdc in next 3 sts, [hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st] twice, sl st in first hdc to join	(30 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, sc in same st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st, 2 dc in next st, dc in next st, [2 tr in next st] twice, (tr, dtr) in next st, (dtr, tr) in next st, [2 tr in next st] twice, dc in next st, 2 dc in next st, hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, sl st in first sc to join	(18 sc, 8 hdc, 6 dc, 10 tr, 2 dtr)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 19 sts, 2 sc in each of next 4 sts, sc in next 20 sts, sl st in first sc to join	(48 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Ear: make 2

Yarns in order of use: B, pink; A, mouse gray.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 8 hdc in ring, pull the tail to close the ring, sl st in first hdc to join	(8 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(16 sc)
	Fasten off B.	
☐ **Rnd 3**	Join A with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 7 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(24 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing.	

Cap

Yarns in order of use: C, white; D, red.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 9.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 7 chs	(8 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	(8 sc)
	Fasten off C.	
☐ **Row 3**	Turn, join D with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in each st across	(8 sc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog in next 2 sts, sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog in next 2 sts	(2 sc2tog, 4 sc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	(6 sc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog in next 2 sts, sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog in next 2 sts	(2 sc2tog, 2 sc)
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn, [sc2tog in next 2 sts] twice	(2 sc2tog)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing.	

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Pompom

Yarn C, white.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 6 sc in ring, pull the tail to close the ring, sl st in first sc to join	(6 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail for sewing.	

White tail cord

Yarn C, white.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 22.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sl st in 2nd ch from hook, sl st in each rem ch across	(21 sl sts)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail for sewing.	

Red tail cord

Yarn D, red.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 22.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sl st in 2nd ch from hook, sl st in each rem ch across	(21 sl sts)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail for sewing.	

Finishing

- Block: pin the front and the back to the same shape, a long drop with the nose as its point, the ears to circles and the cap with straight sides. Spray the pieces with water and let them dry.
- Hold the mouse with its nose straight down. All distances are measured from the middle of the foundation chain of the front, straight across and straight up or down.
- Eyes and nose: work these now, on the front alone, right side facing, while its back can still be reached. Eyes: with E, work two large French knots, one 3/8 in (1 cm) to the left and one 3/8 in (1 cm) to the right, both 1¼ in (3.2 cm) below. Nose: with B, work a large French knot 2 in (5.1 cm) straight below, between the two dtr, just under their top loops. Fasten the ends on the wrong side, away from the top loops of Rnd 4.
- Tail: lay the white tail cord, the red tail cord and the wire side by side, the feet of both cords at one end and their tips at the other, and twist the tail cords round each other and round the wire, about one full turn to every 7/8 in (2.2 cm), so that the colors make even slanting stripes and the wire is hidden. Bend the last ¼ in (0.6 cm) of the wire back at each end. At the feet, sew the two cords together round the wire with the 8 in (20.5 cm) tail of the white cord. At the tips, sew the two cords together round the wire with an 8 in (20 cm) length of D. The twisted tail is about 3 1/8 in (7.9 cm) long. Lay the back down, wrong side up, nose down, and lay the foot end of the tail on it, 1/8 in (0.3 cm) of it below the upper edge, straight above the foundation chain, the rest standing straight up past the edge. Sew that end down with the 8 in (20.5 cm) tail of the red cord.
- Rnd 5: lay the front on the back, right side up, the first st of Rnd 4 of the front over the last st of Rnd 4 of the back, 44 sts over 44 sts. Work Rnd 5 of the front now, putting the hook through a st of the front and the st of the back behind it for every st, and through the end of the tail where it lies between them. When 8 sts are left, put in stuffing, so that the mouse is about 7/8 in (2.2 cm) thick in its middle. Work the last 8 sts, join and fasten off.

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- Ears: lay the ears on the front, right sides up, their magic rings 1¼ in (3.2 cm) to the left and 1¼ in (3.2 cm) to the right and 5/8 in (1.6 cm) below. Sew each down with its tail where it lies on the front, through the front layer only; the outer part of the ear stands out past the edge.
- Cap: lay it on the front, right side up, over the inner edges of the ears, the middle of its foundation chain 7/8 in (2.2 cm) straight below and the middle of its tip ½ in (1.3 cm) straight above. Pin it. Its tail is at its tip: with it, through the front layer only, sew down one side from the tip to the lower edge, then sew along the lower edge to the other corner. Push a pinch of stuffing under the cap through the side that is still open, and sew that side down from the lower edge up to the tip. Pompom: sew it over the tip of the cap with its tail, through the front layer only, right side up, its magic ring 5/8 in (1.6 cm) straight above.
- Whiskers: cut two 5 in (13 cm) lengths of E, split them and use half of their plies. With the needle draw each length through under the stitches of the front, not through the back, from the left to the right, 1¾ in (4.4 cm) below, so that it comes out 1/8 in (0.3 cm) on each side of the middle, and tie a small knot in it close to the crochet on each side. Trim the ends to 7/8 in (2.2 cm) and spread them, so that on each side the tip of one lies ¼ in (0.6 cm) higher than the tip of the other.
- Bend the tail into a hook to the right, like the top of a candy cane: first ¾ in (1.9 cm) of it stands straight up above the top of Rnd 5, then it makes a half circle 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) wide, measured between the middle of the cord on its two sides (1¾ in (4.4 cm) along the cord), and the last ¼ in (0.6 cm) hangs straight down. The rest of its length, 3/8 in (1 cm), is at its foot, between the layers and behind Rnd 5. The mouse hangs by this hook.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 8 pieces.

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

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