Donkey rag doll

US terms



Finished size

About 13 in (33 cm) from the tips of the ears to the hooves as it sits on the edge of a shelf with its legs hanging down, and 9½ in (24 cm) from the tips of the ears to the seat

Skill

Intermediate

Twelve pieces worked in rounds and rows and sewn together.

Yarn

Medium (4), 4 colors

Hook

3.5 mm (US E-4)

Gauge

20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet, in a spiral.

What you need

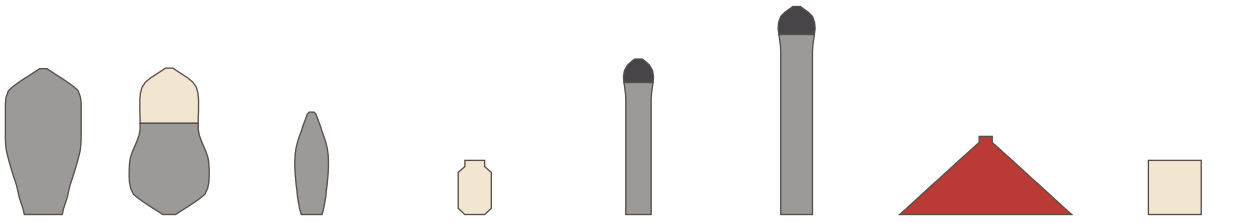
Yarn A: gray heather, the main color	**about 220 yd (201 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: cream, head, inner ear and belly patch	**about 30 yd (27 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: charcoal, arm, leg and the details	**about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: red, neckerchief and the details	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 160 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins, scissors and two black plastic eyes with washers, 10 mm.

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.

The pieces



Body **Head** **Ear x 2** to the head **Inner ear x 2** **Arm x 2** to the body **Leg x 2** to the body **Neckerchief** **Belly patch** to the body

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Gauge

20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet, in a spiral.

To check it, work a flat circle: 6 sc in a magic ring, then 6 more sc in each round (12, 18, 24, 30, 36). After round 6 it should measure about 2¼ in (5.5 cm) across. The stitches should be tight enough that the stuffing does not show.

Use any hook that gives you this. If you count more stitches than this in 4 in (10 cm), change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, to a smaller one.

Notes

- Every piece that has rounds is worked in a continuous spiral with the right side facing you: do not join and do not turn. Put the marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up. Square brackets hold a repeat; work it as many times as the line says. The number in parentheses is the count at the end of the round.
- Running stitches go in and out along a line.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work round 1 into the loop and pull the tail to close it. Or chain 2 and work round 1 into the first chain.
- Color change: where a line begins "With A," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in A. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- Center line: places on a piece are given by round and by stitches from a center line. It is half way round from where the rounds begin. Mark it with a pin or a scrap of yarn as listed here, run it straight from round 1 to the last round by eye, and count out from it along the round, in stitches and half stitches.
- Head: the center line runs between stitches 19 and 20 of round 17 (38 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end, the nose.
- Body: the center line runs between stitches 18 and 19 of round 6 (36 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the bottom.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the donkey. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- In every step of putting it together: where a piece meets or overlaps another, sew through both. Where no tail is left or a tail is too short, sew with a new length of the yarn of the piece you are putting on.
- To work sc2tog, put the hook under the front loop only of each of the next 2 stitches, yarn over, pull through both loops, yarn over, pull through 2 loops.
- For a child under three, or a pet, embroider the eyes instead: satin stitch dots of the same size in C (charcoal).
- The rounds and stitches are the same for every size; the yarn and the hook make the difference. Lengths in the words (tails, details) are for Standard, the size written here: for another size multiply them by the number in its line.
- Small: fine (2, sport) yarn, 2.25 mm (B-1) hook, 27 sc and 30 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 9¾ in (25 cm) from the tips of the ears to the hooves as it sits on the edge of a shelf with its legs hanging down, and 7 in (18 cm) from the tips of the ears to the seat; eyes 7 mm; multiply lengths by 0.74; about 0.74 times the yarn.
- Large: bulky (5, chunky) yarn, 5 mm (H-8) hook, 14 sc and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 18¾ in (47.5 cm) from the tips of the ears to the hooves as it sits on the edge of a shelf with its legs hanging down, and 13½ in (34.5 cm) from the tips of the ears to the seat; eyes 14 mm; multiply lengths by 1.4; about 1.4 times the yarn.
- Jumbo: super bulky (6, plush or velvet) yarn, 6.5 mm (K-10½) hook, 11 sc and 12.1 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 23¾ in (60.5 cm) from the tips of the ears to the hooves as it sits on the edge of a shelf with its legs hanging down, and 17¼ in (44 cm) from the tips of the ears to the seat; eyes 18 mm; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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Instructions

US terms.

ch chain, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **MR** magic ring, **Rnd** round, **st** stitch.
sc2tog 2 sc made into one, **RS** right side, the one that shows.
2 sc in next st: both in one stitch. **sc in next 2 sts**: one in each.
[ ] 6 times: work what is inside 6 times in all.
(6 sc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Body

Yarn A, gray heather.

Round 1 is the middle of the seat.

☐ **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**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 18 and 19 of round 6. It faces the front, round 1 at the bottom.

☐ **Rnds 7 to 16**	Sc in each st around	(36 sc)

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 10 sts**] 3 times**	(33 sc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	Sc in each st around	(33 sc)
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc in next 9 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 20**	Sc in each st around	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts**] 3 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnds 23 to 24**	Sc in each st around	(24 sc)

23 24

☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(21 sc)
☐ **Rnd 26**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 27**	Sc in each st around	(18 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff lightly up to the open edge.	

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Head

Yarns in order of use: B, cream; A, gray heather.

Round 1 is the nose, the last round the back 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**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times**	(28 sc)
☐ **Rnds 6 to 10**	Sc in each st around	(28 sc)

6 7 8 9 10

☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in next 13 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 13 sts	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	With A, sc in each st around	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnd 13**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 26 sts	(28 sc)
☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 3 times**	(33 sc)
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts**] 3 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc in next 17 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(38 sc)

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 19 and 20 of round 17. This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end, the nose.

☐ **Rnds 18 to 22**	Sc in each st around	(38 sc)

18 19 20 21 22

☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 9 sts**] 2 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 24**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(24 sc)

Fix the eyes now: two 10 mm black plastic eyes, on the head on round 15, one to each side, 5½ stitches from the center line (11 stitches apart). For a child under three, or a pet, leave them out and embroider them later. Then stuff firmly, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 26**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 27**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 28**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside.	

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Ear: make 2

Yarn A, gray heather.

☐ **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, sc in next st**] 2 times**	(8 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	(14 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**	(16 sc)
☐ **Rnds 8 to 12**	Sc in each st around	(16 sc)
8 9 10 11 12		
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	(14 sc)
☐ **Rnds 14 to 15**	Sc in each st around	(14 sc)
14 15		
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**	(10 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 5 stitches.	

Inner ear: make 2

Yarn B, cream.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 3 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 4.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	(3 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st	(5 sc)
☐ **Rows 3 to 8**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	(5 sc)
3 4 5 6 7 8		
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc in next st, sc2tog	(3 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing.	

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Arm: make 2

Yarns in order of use: C, charcoal; A, gray heather.

Rounds 1 to 5 are the hoof. Stuff as you go, every few rounds: the hoof firmly, the rest very lightly, so that the arm stays floppy. Leave the last 3 rounds empty.

☐ **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**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(15 sc)
☐ **Rnds 4 to 5**	Sc in each st around	(15 sc)
	4 5	
☐ **Rnd 6**	With A, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnds 7 to 27**	Sc in each st around	(12 sc)
	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27	
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing. Elbow: cut 18 in (46 cm) of D (red). Wind it tightly three times round the arm between rounds 14 and 15, the three turns side by side, so that they draw the arm in. Knot the two ends firmly, pull them inside the arm with the needle and trim them.	

Leg: make 2

Yarns in order of use: C, charcoal; A, gray heather.

Rounds 1 to 6 are the hoof. Stuff as you go, every few rounds: the hoof firmly, the rest very lightly, so that the leg stays floppy. Leave the last 3 rounds empty.

☐ **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**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnds 4 to 6**	Sc in each st around	(18 sc)
	4 5 6	
☐ **Rnd 7**	With A, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**	(15 sc)
☐ **Rnds 8 to 36**	Sc in each st around	(15 sc)
	8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36	
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. Knee: cut 18 in (46 cm) of D (red). Wind it tightly three times round the leg between rounds 24 and 25, the three turns side by side, so that they draw the leg in. Knot the two ends firmly, pull them inside the leg with the needle and trim them.	

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Neckerchief

Yarn D, red.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 2 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 3.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	(2 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in each of next 2 sts	(4 sc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st	(6 sc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st	(8 sc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st	(10 sc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st	(12 sc)
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st	(14 sc)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 12 sts, 2 sc in next st	(16 sc)
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 14 sts, 2 sc in next st	(18 sc)
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 16 sts, 2 sc in next st	(20 sc)
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 18 sts, 2 sc in next st	(22 sc)
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 20 sts, 2 sc in next st	(24 sc)
☐ **Row 13**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 22 sts, 2 sc in next st	(26 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing. Row 1 is the point of the neckerchief, the last row its long edge. Weave in the tail of the foundation.	

Belly patch

Yarn B, cream.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 8 stitches wide. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 9.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	(8 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 9**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	(8 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 30 in (76 cm) tail for sewing.	

Assembly

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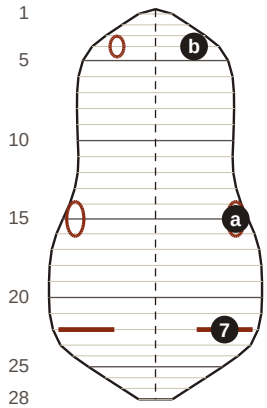

Head: 7 ears, a eyes, b nostrils

A number is the step below that puts it on; a letter is put on under Finishing. Each line is a round, counted as the rounds are worked. The upright broken line is the center line. A place with a broken edge is on the far side.

1. Lay the belly patch on the body, right side out, row 1 down, its middle (between its stitches 4 and 5) on the center line: row 1 lies on round 9 of the body and row 9 on round 17. Sew it down along all four edges with its tail.

2. Sew the two arms to the body by their open edges (12 sts), one to each side: the middle of each edge lies on round 23, 6 stitches from the center line (12 stitches apart), half way between the front and the back. Each edge covers about rounds 21 to 25. Sew all the way round with the tail. The arms hang down loose, their hooves on the shelf.

3. Sew the two legs to the body by their open edges (15 sts), one to each side: the middle of each edge lies on round 5, 3 stitches from the center line (6 stitches apart). Each edge covers about rounds 3 to 7. The legs point forward. Sew all the way round with the tail. Nothing holds the knees: on the edge of a shelf the legs bend at the red windings and hang down.

4. Lay the neckerchief round the neck, right side out, the point down in front: the middle of its long edge (row 13, 26 sts) is on the center line, and the edge runs along round 26 of the body to the back, where its two ends lie one over the other by about 6 stitches. With its tail, sew the two ends together where they lie over each other, then sew the long edge to round 26 (18 sts) all the way round, eased to fit. The rest of it hangs loose, and the point comes to about round 14, over the upper part of the patch.

5. Set the head on the neck, its center line on top, the nose forward and a little down, so that the middle of round 1 is about 2 3/8 in (6 cm) lower than the closed hole at the back. The middle of the open edge of the body (18 sts) lies on round 13 of the head, on the line opposite the center line, and the edge covers about rounds 10 to 16. With the tail of the body, sew the edge to the head all the way round, going round twice, and top up the stuffing in the neck before the last stitches of the first time round.

6. Sew one inner ear flat to the side of each ear that will look forward, right side out, its row 1 toward the open edge of the ear, half way between the two folds, so that it covers rounds 5 to 13 of the ear. Sew all its edges down with the tail, through one layer of the ear.

7. Pin the two ears to the head: the middle of each flat edge lies on round 22, one to each side, 5 stitches from the center line (10 stitches apart). The flat edge lies with its upper end on about round 23, 2½ stitches from the center line, and its lower end on about round 20, 7 stitches from it. They point up and a little out to the side, and the inner ears look forward. Sew through both layers of the 5-stitch edge with the tail.

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Finishing

- Put in the plastic eyes when the words of a piece say so, or embroider eyes in the same places with the other details. Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle when the pieces round the place are sewn on; begin and end each strand on the wrong side of a flat piece, inside a stuffed one. Knot in the lengths of yarn at the same time. Satin stitch is straight stitches side by side until the shape is filled. Backstitch is a line of short stitches end to end: bring the needle up one stitch ahead, put it down at the end of the stitch before, and repeat.
- Patch stitches: with D (red), in running stitch, a square on the belly patch, through the patch and the body, one stitch and one row inside the edge of the patch. Down each side of the square four upright stitches, each one row tall, on rows 2, 4, 6 and 8, between the first and the second stitch from the side edge of the patch. Along the top and the bottom of the square, on row 8 and on row 2, three level stitches, each one stitch wide: the middle one reaches half a stitch to each side of the middle of the patch, and the other two from 1½ to 2½ stitches from it, one to each side.
- Forelock: cut 48 lengths of C (charcoal), each 4½ in (11.5 cm) long. At each place, use the needle to draw three lengths under the stitch, from side to side, until 2½ in (6.3 cm) of each hangs out on one side. Tie the two sides together in a firm knot close to the fabric, pull the ends of the other side inside the toy and trim the ends left outside to 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm). They fall forward over the forehead. Where a piece covers a place, use the nearest free stitch. The places on the head, counting stitches from the center line (stitch 1 is the one beside it), the same on each side: round 20: stitches 1 and 2; round 21: stitches 1 and 2; round 22: stitches 1 and 2; round 23: stitches 1 and 2.
- Mane: cut 56 lengths of C (charcoal), each 4¼ in (11 cm) long. At each place, use the needle to draw four lengths under the stitch, from side to side, until 2 3/8 in (6 cm) of each hangs out on one side. Tie the two sides together in a firm knot close to the fabric, pull the ends of the other side inside the toy and trim the ends left outside to 1 in (2.5 cm). They stand straight out. Where a piece covers a place, use the nearest free stitch. The places on the head, counting stitches from the center line (stitch 1 is the one beside it), the same on each side: round 20: stitch 19; round 21: stitch 19; round 22: stitch 19; round 23: stitch 18; round 24: stitch 15; round 25: stitch 12; round 26: stitch 9.
- Eyes: two 10 mm black plastic eyes, on the head on round 15, one to each side, 5½ stitches from the center line (11 stitches apart).
- Nostrils: with C (charcoal), in satin stitch, an oval about 3/16 in (5 mm) wide and ¼ in (6 mm) tall, its middle on the head on round 4, one to each side, 2½ stitches from the center line (5 stitches apart).
- Mouth: with C (charcoal), in backstitch, a smile, one curve about ¾ in (19 mm) wide that dips 3/16 in (5 mm) below its ends, under the two nostrils. Its two ends are on the head on round 3, one to each side, 6 stitches from the center line; the lowest point of the curve is on the line opposite the center line, between rounds 2 and 3.
- Weave every tail through the toy and trim it. For a toy that will be played with, go round each seam a second time with a new length of yarn. Check the seams and small parts from time to time.

In all: 12 pieces; 4,053 stitches (768 in the body, 763 in the head, 226 in each ear, 41 in each inner ear, 327 in each arm, 540 in each leg, 182 in the neckerchief, 72 in the belly patch).

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

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