Easy skull applique

US terms



Finished size
About 3¾ in (10 cm) wide and about 4¼ in (11 cm) tall

Skill
Easy
Worked in rows and rounds, with 4 pieces, color changes and 1 special stitch.

Yarn
Medium (4), 2 colors

Hook
5 mm (US H-8)

Gauge
14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: cream, the skull **about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: black, the eyes and the nose **about 6 yd (5 m), an estimate**
By weight: about 10 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

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.

Gauge

14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

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.

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. After round 2 the skull measures about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) across.

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.
- 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.

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- At the start of a round, same st is the stitch the round before was joined in.
- A round worked in each st around begins in the st the round before was joined in.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches are not counted.
- The right side of the skull is the side that faces you in Rnds 1 to 4. Row 5 goes straight on from Rnd 4 without turning; its first sc is in the st Rnd 4 was joined in. Rows 5 to 7 are the jaw: it stands on the first 10 hdc of Rnd 4, between the two groups of 8 dc, which are the cheeks.
- In the nose the first hdc is the point and the sl st is the notch between its two round lobes. Pull the ring tight.
- 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.
- Straight stitch (sewn): bring the yarn needle up from the back at one end of the stitch and put it down at the other end.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured the longest way: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 2¾ in (7 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 3¼ in (8 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 5½ in (14 cm).

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), **st** stitch, **rnd** round.

RS right side, the one that shows.

2 hdc in next st: both in one stitch. **hdc in next 4 sts**: one in each.

[ ] 7 times: work what is inside 7 times in all. **( )**: all of it goes into the one place.

(8 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.

Skull

Yarn A, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	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 hdc in each st around, sl st in first hdc to join	(16 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, hdc in same st, 2 hdc in next st, **[**hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st**] 7 times**, sl st in first hdc to join	(24 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, hdc in same st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next 4 sts, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st, 2 dc in each of next 4 sts, hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next 4 sts, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st, 2 dc in each of next 4 sts, sl st in first hdc to join	(20 hdc, 16 dc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 9 sts, leave the remaining 26 sts unworked	(10 sc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	(10 sc)

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☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog in next 2 sts, sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog in next 2 sts	(2 sc2tog, 6 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 35 in (89 cm) tail, for sewing the whole applique to your project.	

Eye: make 2

Yarn B, black.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 9 hdc in ring, pull the tail to close the ring, sl st in first hdc to join	(9 hdc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing.	

Nose

Yarn B, black.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, (hdc, sc, sc, hdc, sc, sl st, sc, hdc, sc, sc) in ring, pull the tail to close the ring, sl st in first hdc to join	(3 hdc, 6 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing.	

Finishing

- Block: pin the pieces to shape on a flat surface, spray them with water and let them dry.
- Lay the skull down, right side up, with the jaw at the bottom. Its middle is its magic ring, and its middle line runs from the top through the magic ring to the middle of Row 7.
- Lay the eyes on it side by side, right side up, their middles 1 5/8 in (4.1 cm) apart, one on each side of the middle line, and 1/8 in (0.3 cm) below the level of the magic ring of the skull. Sew each down all round its edge with its tail.
- Lay the nose between and below them, right side up, its point straight up and its notch straight down, its magic ring on the middle line 1 in (2.5 cm) below the magic ring of the skull. Sew it down all round its edge with its tail.
- With B, work five straight stitches for the teeth, up and down across the jaw: one on the middle line, and one 3/8 in (1 cm) and one 7/8 in (2.2 cm) to each side of it. Each begins 1¾ in (4.4 cm) below the level of the magic ring of the skull and is 5/8 in (1.6 cm) long.
- To sew the applique to your project, pin it where it is to go and sew round its edge with the long tail, under the outermost strands of the stitches.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 4 pieces.

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