Elephant purse

Little girl · US terms



Finished size

About 6¼ in (16 cm) across and 2 in (5 cm) deep without the ears, which stand out about 3¼ in (8 cm) on each side, with about 33 in (84 cm) of strap between its sewn ends

Skill

Intermediate

The parts are simple circles, strips and tubes, with a good deal of sewing and a zipper.

Yarn

Medium (4), 4 colors

Hook

4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge

16 stitches and 17 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: cloud gray, the purse, the ears and the trunk	**about 175 yd (160 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: blush pink, the linings of the ears, the cheeks, the tip of the trunk and the strap	**about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: charcoal, the eyes	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: white, the glints in the eyes	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 130 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a handful of toy stuffing, sewing thread in gray, a sewing needle and pins, 2 stitch markers, a yarn needle, scissors and a zipper 6 in (15 cm) long in pink.

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
Little girl (this file)	**6¼ in (16 cm) across, 2 in (5 cm) deep**	**about 250 yd (229 m)**
Larger	7¾ in (19.5 cm) across, 2¼ in (5.5 cm) deep	about 370 yd (338 m)

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Gauge

16 stitches and 17 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

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 circle should measure about 3¾ in (9.5 cm) across, laid flat and not stretched. If the piece measures more than that, begin again with a smaller hook; if it measures less, with a larger hook.

Notes

- Begin with a magic ring: wind the yarn once round two fingers, put the hook through the ring, draw up a loop and chain 1 to hold it, which does not count as a stitch. Work round 1 into the ring, then pull the tail to draw the ring closed.
- The rounds of every part but the edging of the ear are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round.
- Every part in rounds is worked with its right side, the outside, facing you.
- The gusset, the zipper strips and the strap are worked in rows. The chain of 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.
- Where the pattern says BLO, put the hook under the back loop only; the front loop stays on the outside; in the trunk it makes a ridge.
- To change color, draw the new yarn through as the last yarn over of the stitch before. Cut the old yarn at each change, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug.
- Backstitch: bring the needle up one stitch length ahead, go down where the last stitch ended, and so on, with no space between the stitches.
- To sew a piece down flat: bring the needle up through the piece under the top of a stitch at its edge and down through the fabric beneath just outside the edge, one stitch for each stitch or row of the edge.
- Straight stitch: bring the needle up at one end of the stitch and put it down at the other.
- For a longer strap begin with more chains: for every 4 in (10 cm) you want to add, as many more chains as the gauge has stitches in 4 in (10 cm). Every row then has as many more stitches.
- The purse has small parts that a child under three could pull off, and a long strap: it is not for a child under three.
- Colors. A: the face and the back, the gusset, the zipper strips, the ears and their edging. B: the ear linings, the cheeks and the strap. C: the eyes. D: the glints. Trunk. Rounds 1 to 2: B. Rounds 3 to 20: A.

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Instructions

Little girl. US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **MR** magic ring, **st** stitch, **rnd** round.
BLO: only the loop away from you. **RS** right side, the one that shows.
2 sc in next st: both in one stitch. **sc in next 3 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**.

Face and back: make 2

Yarn A, cloud gray.

The two circles are the same: one is the face and the other the back.

☐ **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**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 2 sts	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 3 sts	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**Sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)

> **Stop and measure now, after round 8.** The circle should measure about 3¾ in (9.5 cm) across.

☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 4 sts	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**Sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 5 sts	(66 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**Sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 11 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 6 sts	(78 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Gusset

Yarn A, cloud gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 55.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(54 sc)

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☐ **Rows 2 to 8**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(54 sc)
2 3 4 5 6 7 8		
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Zipper strip: make 2

Yarn A, cloud gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 25.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(24 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 3**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(24 sc)
2 3		
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Ear: make 2

Yarn A, cloud gray.

☐ **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**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 2 sts	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 3 sts	(42 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Ear lining: make 2

Yarn B, blush pink.

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

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☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 3 sts	(42 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Edging of the ear: make 2

Yarn A, cloud gray.

Hold an ear and a lining with their wrong sides together, the last stitch of the one on the last stitch of the other, the pink lining toward you. Work every stitch through both layers, under both loops of each: the first goes into the stitch after the last stitch of the lining. Weave in their tails between the two layers before the last few stitches.

☐ **Foundation**	An ear and a lining held together, the lining facing you; 42 stitches.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Join A with sl st in first st, ch 1, 2 sc in same st, sc in next 6 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(48 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 26 in (66 cm) for sewing.	

Trunk

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

Begin at the tip. Stuff the upper half firmly and the lower half softly when the last round is done, so that the trunk bends.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	8 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(8 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	With A, sc in BLO of each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnds 4 to 5** 4 5	Sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in BLO of each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**Sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(14 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in each st around	(14 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in BLO of each st around	(14 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**Sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(16 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in each st around	(16 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in BLO of each st around	(16 sc)
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**Sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 14**	Sc in each st around	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 15**	Sc in BLO of each st around	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**Sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(20 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sc in each st around	(20 sc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	Sc in BLO of each st around	(20 sc)

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☐ **Rnds 19 to 20** 19 20	Sc in each st around	(20 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 34 in (86.5 cm) for sewing.	

Eye: make 2

Yarn C, charcoal.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 14 in (35.5 cm) for sewing.	

Cheek: make 2

Yarn B, blush pink.

☐ **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)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 18 in (45.5 cm) for sewing.	

Strap

Yarn B, blush pink.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 141.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(140 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 3** 2 3	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(140 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 14 in (36 cm) to sew one end. To sew the other end, cut a new length of the same yarn, also 14 in (36 cm).	

Assembly

1. Weave in the tails of the face and the back, the gusset, the zipper strips and the strap (all but the long tail of the strap) on their wrong sides, and the starting tails of the eyes and the cheeks. The starting tail of the trunk stays inside it. The long tails are for sewing.

2. The zipper is 6 in (15 cm) long. Fold the tape beyond each of its ends under and hold each fold with two stitches of sewing thread. Lay the two zipper strips with their right sides up and their foundation edges toward each other, and put the zipper, shut, under the gap, its right side up, so that the edge of each strip lies beside the teeth. Pin it. With sewing thread backstitch each strip to its tape along the foundation edge. Fasten off on the back. The strips and the zipper together are the zipper panel, about as wide as the gusset is deep.

3. The ring. Cut two lengths of A, each 14 in (35.5 cm). Right sides out, whip stitch one end of the zipper panel to one end of the gusset: the 3 row ends of one strip to the first 3 of the 8 row ends of the gusset, the 2 row ends in the middle to the end of the zipper tape, and the 3 row ends of the other strip to the last 3. Sew the other end in the same way; the gusset is not twisted. Fasten off and weave the ends in on the inside. The ring has 24 stitches of the panel and 54 of the gusset along each of its edges.

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4. The face. Count the stitches of the last round of each circle from 1, the stitch that the leveling slip stitch went into, to 78, in the direction you worked. Stitches 1 to 24 are the top; the upright line through the magic ring and between stitches 12 and 13 is the middle line of the face. Put a marker at its top and one at its bottom, between stitches 51 and 52. The right side is the front.

5. The eyes. The middle of each eye is 1 in (2.5 cm) to the side of the middle line and ¾ in (2 cm) above the level of the magic ring. With its own tail sew each eye down flat, right side up. Fasten off on the wrong side. With one length of D, about 12 in (30.5 cm), work two straight stitches close together on the upper right of each eye, each ¼ in (0.5 cm) long and upright. Fasten off on the wrong side.

6. The cheeks. The middle of each cheek is 1¾ in (4.5 cm) to the side of the middle line and ½ in (1.5 cm) below the level of the magic ring. Sew each one down flat with its own tail, right side up. Fasten off on the wrong side.

7. The trunk. The middle of its open edge is on the middle line, on round 3 of the face, straight below the magic ring. Pin the edge to the face in a circle and with its long tail whip stitch its 20 stitches down all round; before the last 4 stitches add a little stuffing, so that the base is full. Bend the trunk down along the middle line. Bring the needle up through the face 2½ in (6.5 cm) below the magic ring, and with three small stitches through round 8 of the trunk hold its back to the face there, so that the tip can curl forward. Fasten off on the wrong side.

8. Sew the circles on. Cut two lengths of A, each 70 in (178 cm). Hold the face against one edge of the ring, wrong sides together: stitches 1 to 24 of the face meet the 24 stitches of the zipper panel, and stitches 25 to 78 the 54 stitches of the gusset. Whip stitch from the outside, one stitch for each stitch, beginning at stitch 1. Open the zipper. Sew the back to the other edge in the same way; seen from its own right side its stitch 1 comes at the other end of the panel. Fasten off and draw all the ends inside.

9. The ears. Pink to the front, each ear is sewn to the seam between the face and the ring, along 11 of the 48 stitches of its edging: on one side of the face beside stitches 25 to 35 of the face, on the other side beside stitches 68 to 78. Turn the ear so that its long tail hangs at the upper end of these 11 stitches. With the long tail whip stitch the 11 stitches of the edging to the seam between the face and the ring, one to one, from the top down, and then once more back up to the top. Fasten off inside the purse.

10. The strap is about 35 in (89 cm) long. Lay the last 1 in (2.5 cm) of one end upright on the outside of the gusset, in the middle of its depth, so that the end points down and the rest of the strap goes up over the end of the zipper panel: its top is level with the seam between the gusset and the panel. With its long tail sew it down flat along both sides, along the end and across at the top. Sew the other end to the other end of the gusset in the same way with the new length; see that the strap is not twisted. Fasten off inside. Take the markers out.

11. Weave in all the tails that are left on the inside.

Finishing

- Pat the purse round, cup the ears forward a little with your hands, and curl the tip of the trunk.

In all: 15 pieces; 3,216 stitches.

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

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