Flamingo basket

US terms



Finished size

About 8¼ in (21 cm) across and 5 in (12.5 cm) tall, the feathers, the tail and the neck not counted; the neck and head are about 12 in (30.5 cm) long

To fit a head of 12 in (30.5 cm)

Skill

Intermediate

The basket is plain rounds; the feathers are shells worked into loops left free, and the neck is a stuffed tube.

Yarn

Medium (4), 4 colors

Hook

6 mm (US J-10)

Gauge

11 stitches and 12 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: coral, the basket, the lowest feathers and the tail	**about 425 yd (389 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: flamingo pink, the middle feathers, the head and the neck	**about 160 yd (146 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: shell pink, the upper feathers and the band of the bill	**about 85 yd (78 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: charcoal, the tip of the bill and the eyes	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton

Two strands of yarn are held together throughout; the amounts above are for all of them.

Hook: 6 mm (US J-10), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a handful of toy stuffing, two chenille stems (pipe cleaners), each 12 in (30.5 cm) long, 2 stitch markers, pins, 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.

Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

ch	chain stitch
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
hdc	half double crochet (UK htr, half treble)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
tr	treble crochet (UK dtr, double treble)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together (UK dc2tog)
BLO	back loop only

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MR	magic ring
st	stitch
sk	skip (UK miss)
rnd	round
RS	right side

Gauge

11 stitches and 12 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

The feathers are not counted in the rounds.

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 12 the base should measure about 8¼ in (21 cm) across, laid flat and not stretched. A range that is near enough is printed after that round. If the piece measures more than that, begin again with a smaller hook; if it measures less, with a larger hook.

Before you start

- 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 the basket and of the head and neck are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round. The rows of feathers and the tail feathers are joined with a slip stitch in their first single crochet.
- Two strands are held together throughout, for the sewing too, where nothing else is said. Every part is worked with its right side, the outside, facing you.
- Where the pattern says BLO, put the hook under the back loop only; the front loop stays free on the outside. The first such round, round 13, makes the edge of the base, and nothing is worked into the loops that it leaves free. The feathers are worked into the loops left free by the other six, rounds 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 26: these are the front loops of the rounds just below them, rounds 15, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25.
- Feathers: each is five treble crochet (UK double treble) in one loop, with a single crochet in the second loop on each side of it.
- sc2tog: draw up a loop in each of the next 2 stitches, yarn over and pull through all 3 loops on the hook.
- 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.
- Colors. The basket is A. The feathers are worked from the bottom up: the first two rows in A, the next two in B, the upper two in C. The tail feathers are A. Head and neck. Rounds 1 to 3: D. Rounds 4 to 5: C. Rounds 6 to 36: B.

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Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a round is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, hdc is half treble, dc is treble, tr is double treble, sc2tog is dc2tog and sk is miss.

Basket

Yarn A, coral.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(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)**
☐ **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)**

> **Stop and measure now, after round 12.** The base should measure about 8¼ in (21 cm) across. Anything from 8 in (20.5 cm) to 8¼ in (21 cm) is near enough.

Sides

☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in BLO of each st around	**(72 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 14 to 15**	Sc in each st around	**(72 sc)**

A box for each round, 14 to 15: tick them off as you go.

☐ 14 ☐ 15

☐ **Rnd 16**	Sc in BLO of each st around	**(72 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sc in each st around	**(72 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 18 to 27**	Repeat rnds 16 and 17 in turn: every even-numbered rnd is worked as rnd 16, every odd-numbered rnd as rnd 17. (72 sc)	

A box for each round, 18 to 27: tick them off as you go.

☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐ 24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26 ☐ 27

☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

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Coral feathers: make 2

Yarn A, coral.

These two rows of feathers are worked on the basket, and hang down. Hold the basket upside down, its outside toward you, and work into the free front loops, one loop for each "st", from right to left as always. The first row begins at the loop nearest the last stitch of the sides, at the back; the second begins two loops farther on, so that its feathers hang between those of the first.

☐ **Foundation**	The free front loops of round 15 of the basket for the first, of round 17 for the second, RS facing; 72 stitches.
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Join A with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sk next st, 5 tr in next st, sk next st, **[**sc in next st, sk next st, 5 tr in next st, sk next st**] 17 times**, sl st in first sc to join **(18 sc, 90 tr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).

Flamingo pink feathers: make 2

Yarn B, flamingo pink.

These two rows of feathers are worked on the basket, and hang down. Hold the basket upside down, its outside toward you, and work into the free front loops, one loop for each "st", from right to left as always. The first row begins at the loop nearest the last stitch of the sides, at the back; the second begins two loops farther on, so that its feathers hang between those of the first.

☐ **Foundation**	The free front loops of round 19 of the basket for the first, of round 21 for the second, RS facing; 72 stitches.
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Join B with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sk next st, 5 tr in next st, sk next st, **[**sc in next st, sk next st, 5 tr in next st, sk next st**] 17 times**, sl st in first sc to join **(18 sc, 90 tr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).

Shell pink feathers: make 2

Yarn C, shell pink.

These two rows of feathers are worked on the basket, and hang down. Hold the basket upside down, its outside toward you, and work into the free front loops, one loop for each "st", from right to left as always. The first row begins at the loop nearest the last stitch of the sides, at the back; the second begins two loops farther on, so that its feathers hang between those of the first.

☐ **Foundation**	The free front loops of round 23 of the basket for the first, of round 25 for the second, RS facing; 72 stitches.
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Join C with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sk next st, 5 tr in next st, sk next st, **[**sc in next st, sk next st, 5 tr in next st, sk next st**] 17 times**, sl st in first sc to join **(18 sc, 90 tr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).

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Head and neck

Yarns in order of use: D, charcoal; C, shell pink; B, flamingo pink.

Begin at the tip of the bill. Before you begin, make the wire: twist the two chenille stems together along their whole length, then turn both ends back, by about 1¼ in (3 cm) each, and wind them down, so that nothing sharp stands out and the piece is about 9 in (23 cm) long. After round 12 reach inside and knot the two ends at each of the two color changes together, cut them short and leave them inside. Stuff the bill and the head firmly as far as the end of round 7. Set one end of the wire on this stuffing, in the middle of the tube, and stuff rounds 8 to 12 firmly all round it: the wire now reaches into the head as far as the eyes will be, and its other end stands out of the tube. Work the neck round the wire, bending it aside where it is in your way. Stuff the neck firmly, round the wire, with small pieces after each of rounds 18, 24 and 30, and straighten the wire in the middle of the tube each time.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	With C, sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**

Head

☐ **Rnd 6**	With B, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 8 to 10**	Sc in each st around	**(16 sc)**

A box for each round, 8 to 10: tick them off as you go.

8 9 10

☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 4 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**Sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**

Neck

☐ **Rnds 13 to 30**	Sc in each st around	**(10 sc)**

A box for each round, 13 to 30: tick them off as you go.

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

☐ **Rnd 31**	**[**Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 32**	Sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 33**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 34**	Sc in each st around	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 35**	**[**Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(20 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 36**	Sc in each st around	**(20 sc)**
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 40 in (101.5 cm) for sewing. The wire ends inside, about ¾ in (2 cm) short of the open edge. If it ends nearer than ½ in (1.5 cm), turn its end back a little more. Stuff the lowest 2 in (5 cm), rounds 31 to 36, softly.	

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Tail feather: make 3

Yarn A, coral.

The feather is one round along both sides of its chain. The joined end is its foot, and the 5 hdc in one chain make its round tip.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 9.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next 2 chs, dc in next 3 chs, hdc in next ch, 5 hdc in last ch, working along the other side of the foundation ch, hdc in next ch, dc in next 3 chs, hdc in next 2 chs, sc in next ch, sl st in first sc to join	**(2 sc, 11 hdc, 6 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 20 in (51 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Weave in the tails of the basket and of the rows of feathers on the inside. Weave in the starting tails of the tail feathers on their wrong sides. The starting tail of the bill and the knotted ends of its color changes stay inside it.

2. The ends. The last stitch of the sides is at the middle of the back, where the tail goes. From there count 36 stitches along the rim: this is the middle of the front, where the neck goes. Put a marker in the rim at both places.

3. The eyes. Lay the head down so that you see it from the side, the bill at your left. With D, one strand, about 24 in (61 cm), make a French knot on round 8 of the head and neck, in the middle of the side that you see, and another on round 8 on the other side, straight opposite, 8 stitches away. French knot: bring the needle up, wind the yarn three times round it close to the fabric, and put it down again beside the place where it came up, holding the yarn taut. Draw both ends inside.

4. The neck. The head and neck are still one straight tube, the bill at its upper end; they are bent in the next step. Turn the tube so that, as you look at the front of the basket, one eye is at the left edge of the tube and the other at its right edge. Lay the lowest 2 in (5 cm) of the neck flat against the outside of the basket at the front marker, upright, over the feathers, its open edge down and 2 in (5 cm) below the rim. Pin it. With its long tail whip stitch the edge to the wall all round, through the feathers, its 20 stitches, and add stuffing before the last few. Then sew the neck to the wall up each side as far as the rim, 4 stitches on each side, and across behind the neck to the rim with 4 stitches. Fasten off inside the basket.

5. The curve. The wire inside holds every bend. Bend the neck a little outward from the rim, then back over the basket, then forward again at its top, so that it is an S. Then bend the top of the neck and the back of the head, rounds 9 to 15, in one round curve forward and down, away from the basket, so that the bill points forward and down with an eye at each side. The wire begins at round 8, so it lies in the whole of this curve.

6. The tail, the side feathers. Two feathers are the side feathers; the third, the middle feather, is kept for step 7. All three stand on the outside of the basket at the back marker, over the feathers of the wall, right side facing away from the basket, foot down and 1 in (2.5 cm) below the rim, straight below the marker. Pin the first side feather with its foot there and its round tip leaning to your left, so that it points to 11 on the face of a clock. Sew it to the wall with its own tail, which hangs from its foot, along both edges from the foot to the rim and no higher: on each edge that is the 3 stitches nearest the foot, a single crochet and 2 half double crochet. For each stitch bring the needle out from the inside of the basket through the stitch of the feather, and in again through the wall beside the edge. Sew up one edge, carry the yarn across on the inside of the basket and sew down the other. Fasten off inside the basket. Pin the second side feather with its foot on top of the foot of the first, leaning to your right, so that it points to 1, and sew it in the same way; where it lies over the first feather, sew through both and the wall. Above the rim the side feathers are still free.

7. The tail, the middle feather. Lay it over the two side feathers, its right side facing away from the basket, pointing straight up, its foot on top of their two feet, so that it covers the place between them. Pin it. With its own tail sew up the edge at your left: 3 stitches from the foot to the rim, through the side feather and the wall behind it, then, above the rim, 2 stitches more, in the next 2 stitches of the edge (double crochet), to the side feather behind them only, as far as ¾ in (2 cm) above the rim. Run the needle across behind the middle feather, through the backs of its stitches, to the same

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height on the edge at your right, and sew down that edge in the same way: 2 stitches to the side feather behind them only, then 3 stitches from the rim to the foot through the side feather and the wall. Fasten off inside the basket. Above the rim the two side feathers are not sewn to each other; the middle feather holds both.

Finishing

- Draw each row of feathers down over the one below it. There is wire in the neck: the basket is not a toy for a small child.

In all: 5 pieces; 2,657 stitches (1,548 in the basket, 108 in each coral feathers, 108 in each flamingo pink feathers, 108 in each shell pink feathers, 404 in the head and neck, 19 in each tail feather).

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

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