# Guinea pig hammock bed

Medium · US terms



Finished size
**About 13¼ × 13 in (34 × 33 cm)**
About 13¼ in (33.5 cm) wide and 13 in (33 cm) from back to front with the border, without the corner loops, for a grown guinea pig

Skill
**Easy**
It is two squares of single crochet joined by a border; the corners are chain loops.

Yarn
**Bulky (5), 3 colors**

Hook
**6 mm (US J-10)**

Gauge
**12 stitches and 13 rows to 4 in (10 cm)**
In single crochet.

## You will need

| | |
|---|---|
| Yarn A: gray, the floor and the border | **about 160 yd (146 m), an estimate** |
| Yarn B: peach, the roof of the pocket | **about 70 yd (64 m), an estimate** |
| Yarn C: cream, the stripes and the door edge | **about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate** |

Fiber: acrylic

Hook: 6 mm (US J-10), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: four metal snap hooks or small carabiners about 2 in (5 cm) long, four stitch markers, a yarn needle, scissors and for the lined floor, if it is wanted: a piece of fleece, sewing thread and a sewing needle.

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 |
|---|---|---|
| **Small** | 11¼ × 11 in (29 × 28 cm) | about 195 yd (178 m) |
| **Medium (this file)** | **13¼ × 13 in (34 × 33 cm)** | **about 265 yd (242 m)** |


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## 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) |
| **st** | stitch |
| **sp** | space |
| **rnd** | round |
| **RS** | right side |

## Gauge

**12 stitches and 13 rows to 4 in (10 cm)** in single crochet.

> **The swatch.** A test piece to measure and pull out. It is not the start of the pattern. Lay it flat and count the stitches and rows over 4 in (10 cm) in its middle. There should be 12 stitches and 13 rows. If you count more stitches than that, change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, change to a smaller hook. The swatch can be pulled out and its yarn used again.
>
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Swatch foundation** | Ch 19. | |
| **Swatch row 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across | **(18 sc)** |
| **Swatch rows 2 to 20** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(18 sc)** |

## Before you start

- The chain of 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.
- To change color, draw the new yarn through as the last yarn over of the stitch before. Cut the old yarn, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm). Where only two rows are worked before the old yarn is used again, do not cut it: carry it loosely up the side.
- The right side of a square is the side that faces you in its row 1.
- The border is worked in joined rounds, with the roof facing you all the way. The chain of 1 at the start of a round does not count as a stitch; from round 2 on the first single crochet goes into the stitch the round before was joined in.
- Where the border runs through both layers, hold the edges together and work at an even height, so that the rows of the roof lie on the rows of the floor.
- Backstitch: bring the needle up one stitch length ahead along the line, put it down again at the end of the last stitch, and go on, so that the stitches on the front lie end to end.
- Use a smooth acrylic that stands the washing machine. Look at the hammock every week: where a thread is chewed through, take it out of the cage.
- Colors of the roof, row by row. Rows 1 to 3: B. Rows 4 to 5: C. Rows 6 to 11: B. Rows 12 to 13: C. Rows 14 to 19: B. Rows 20 to 21: C. Rows 22 to 27: B. Rows 28 to 29: C. Row 30: B. The floor and the border are in A, the door edge in C.
- To line the floor: cut a piece of fleece 10¾ in (27.5 cm) wide and 10½ in (26.5 cm) long, lay it on the wrong side of the floor before the border is worked, so that it lies between the two layers and shows in front of the door, and sew it down with backstitch in sewing thread all round, ¼ in (0.5 cm) from its edge, with two small stitches in one place at both ends of the thread.


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# Instructions

Chosen: Medium. Round brackets ( ) inside a line hold stitches that all go into one place. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a row is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch and sc is double crochet.

## Floor

**Yarn A, gray.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | Ch 35. | |
| ☐ **Row 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rows 2 to 36** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |

A box for each row, 2 to 36: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 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 tail of 6 in (15 cm). | |

## Roof

**Yarns in order of use: B, peach; C, cream.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | Ch 35. | |
| ☐ **Row 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rows 2 to 3** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |

A box for each row, 2 to 3: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Row 4** | With C, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Row 5** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Row 6** | With B, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rows 7 to 11** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |

A box for each row, 7 to 11: tick them off as you go.

☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Row 12** | With C, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Row 13** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Row 14** | With B, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rows 15 to 19** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |

A box for each row, 15 to 19: tick them off as you go.

☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Row 20** | With C, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Row 21** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Row 22** | With B, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |


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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rows 23 to 27** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |

A box for each row, 23 to 27: tick them off as you go.

23 24 25 26 27

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Row 28** | With C, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Row 29** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Row 30** | With B, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm). | |

## Border

**Yarn A, gray.**

Lay the floor down with its wrong side up and its foundation chain toward you; that edge is the front. Lay the roof on it, right side up, its last row on the last row of the floor at the back and the side edges together. The roof has 6 rows fewer, so 6 rows of the floor lie free at the front. Put a marker through both layers at each back corner, and one at each side where the roof ends.

Begin at the right end of the back edge, with the roof facing you. The places are, in order: along the back 34, one in each stitch of the last rows, through both layers; down the left side 36, one in the end of each row: the first 30 through both layers, the last 6 through the floor alone; along the front 34, one in each chain of the foundation of the floor alone; up the right side 36, the first 6 through the floor alone and the last 30 through both layers. For a stitch through both layers put the hook through the roof first and then through the floor.

In round 1 the first and the last stitch of the back edge and of the front edge are the corners and take 3 single crochet. In round 2 the corner loop of 10 chains stands in the middle one of those 3. Round 3 fills each loop with 14 single crochet: put the hook under the chain, and push the stitches close together.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | The edge of the floor with the roof on it, the right side of the roof facing: 140 places. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | Join A with sl st in first st, ch 1, 3 sc in same st, sc in next 32 sts, 3 sc in next st, sc in next 36 sts, 3 sc in next st, sc in next 32 sts, 3 sc in next st, sc in next 36 sts, sl st in first sc to join | **(148 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 2** | Ch 1, sc in next st, (sc, ch 10, sc) in next st, sc in next 34 sts, (sc, ch 10, sc) in next st, sc in next 38 sts, (sc, ch 10, sc) in next st, sc in next 34 sts, (sc, ch 10, sc) in next st, sc in next 37 sts, sl st in first sc to join | **(152 sc, 4 ch-10 sps)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 3** | Ch 1, sc in next 2 sts, 14 sc in next ch-10 sp, sc in next 36 sts, 14 sc in next ch-10 sp, sc in next 40 sts, 14 sc in next ch-10 sp, sc in next 36 sts, 14 sc in next ch-10 sp, sc in next 38 sts, sl st in first sc to join | **(208 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm). | |


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### Door edge

**Yarn C, cream.**

Hold the hammock with the roof facing you and its front edge at the top, and begin at your right.

Work the door edge once the border is done, into the roof alone. Leave a tail of 12 in (30.5 cm) where you join C; it sews one end of the edge down later. Row 2 ends where row 1 began, so both tails hang at the right end.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | The front edge of the roof, its right side facing: 34 places, one in each chain of its foundation. | |
| ☐ **Row 1 (RS)** | Join C with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 33 sts | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Row 2** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm). | |

### Assembly

**1.** The door edge is worked on the roof only, so its two short ends are still loose. Each lies against the border at its side, just in front of the marker. Sew each end to the border, once. The right end: thread the tail of 12 in (30.5 cm) into the needle and make two stitches, one at the end of row 1 of the edge and one at the end of row 2, each through the edge and through the stitch of round 1 of the border that lies beside it. Fasten off on the wrong side of the border. The left end has no tail: cut a length of C, 12 in (30.5 cm), begin with a tail of 4 in (10 cm) inside the pocket and sew this end in the same way. Between its ends the door edge stays free. Take the markers out.

**2.** Weave in all the tails that are left, inside the pocket or along the border, for at least 2 in (5 cm), so that no end can be pulled out by teeth.

**3.** Hang it. Put one snap hook through each corner loop and clip all four to the bars of the cage at one height, low enough that the animal can step in: the floor of the hammock hangs no more than 3 in (7.5 cm) above the floor of the cage. The way from each snap hook to the next, round the four sides, is about 16 in (40.5 cm), measured between the bars that they hold. Set like this the hammock sags a little in the middle; farther apart it would be pulled tight.

## Finishing

- Wash it once before it goes into the cage, and let it dry flat.

In all: 2 pieces; 2,820 stitches (1,224 in the floor, 1,020 in the roof, 508 in the border, 68 in the door edge).

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


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