Happy hippo

US terms



Finished size
About 4¾ in (12 cm) tall

Skill
Intermediate
Ten pieces worked in rounds 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.

You will need

Yarn A: lilac gray, the main color	**about 140 yd (128 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: pale mauve, muzzle	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: charcoal, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: pink, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4). 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. 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.

sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together
MR	magic ring
RS	right side

Gauge

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

20 sc and 22 rounds = 4 in (10 cm), worked 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.

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Before you start

- Every piece 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.
- 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.
- 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 24 and 25 of round 10 (48 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the top.
- Body: the center line runs between stitches 21 and 22 of round 7 (42 sts). It faces the front.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the toy. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- Running stitches go in and out along a line.
- 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, ovals, details) are for Standard: 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 3½ in (8.9 cm) tall; 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 6¾ in (17 cm) tall; 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 8¾ in (22 cm) tall; eyes 18 mm; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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 sc is double crochet.

Head

Yarn A, lilac gray.

☐ **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**	**[**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)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 11 to 15**	Sc in each st around	**(48 sc)**

A box for each round, 11 to 15: tick them off as you go.

☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15

☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

Fix the eyes now (see Face and details). Then stuff firmly, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**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.	

Body

Yarn A, lilac gray.

Round 1 is the middle of the base.

☐ **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**	**[**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)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 8 to 12**	Sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**

A box for each round, 8 to 12: tick them off as you go.

☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 16**	Sc in each st around	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	Sc in each st around	**(24 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 22 in (56 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

Ear: make 2

Yarn A, lilac gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in each st around	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Sc in next st, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(7 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 3½ stitches. The odd stitch lies at one fold.	

Muzzle

Yarn B, pale mauve.

☐ **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**	**[**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)**
☐ **Rnds 7 to 8**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**

A box for each round, 7 to 8: tick them off as you go.

☐ 7 ☐ 8

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 28 in (71 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge. Shape the stuffed piece with your fingers into an oval, about 2¾ in (7 cm) wide and 1¾ in (4.4 cm) tall.	

Arm: make 2

Yarn A, lilac gray.

☐ **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**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(16 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 4**	Sc in each st around	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc2tog, sc in next 14 sts	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 6 to 11**	Sc in each st around	**(15 sc)**

A box for each round, 6 to 11: tick them off as you go.

6 7 8 9 10 11

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

Leg: make 2

Yarn A, lilac gray.

☐ **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**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 3 times**	**(21 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in each st around	**(21 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 7 to 8**	Sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**

A box for each round, 7 to 8: tick them off as you go.

7 8

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 18 in (46 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

Tail

Yarn A, lilac gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 2 to 6**	Sc in each st around	**(5 sc)**

A box for each round, 2 to 6: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5 6

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

Assembly

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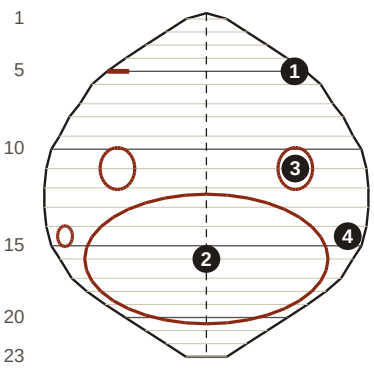
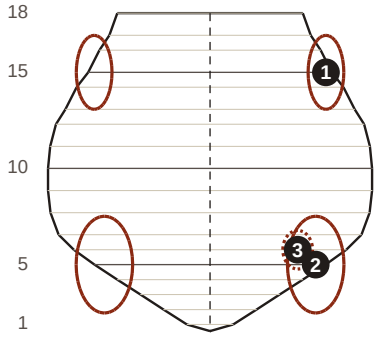


Head: 1 ears, 2 muzzle, 3 eyes, 4 cheeks



Body: 1 arms, 2 legs, 3 tail

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. Set the head on the open edge of the body (24 sts), center lines in line: the edge lies on round 20 of the head (24 sts). With the tail of the body, sew every stitch of the edge to the head, and top up the stuffing in the neck before the last stitches so that the head does not wobble.

2. Pin the two ears to the head: the middle of each flat edge lies on round 5, one to each side, 6 stitches from the center line (12 stitches apart). The flat edge slants: its upper end is on about round 3, 3 stitches from the center line; its lower end is on about round 7, 7½ stitches from it. They point up and out to the side. Sew through both layers of the 3½-stitch edge with the tail.

3. Pin the muzzle to the head: the middle of the open edge lies on round 16, on the center line. The edge (36 sts) covers about rounds 12 to 20 of the head; lay its lowest stitches along the neck seam. It passes close under the eyes: tuck it in against them. It points forward. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

4. Pin the two arms to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 15, one to each side, 6 stitches from the center line (12 stitches apart). The edge (15 sts) covers about rounds 13 to 17 of the body. They point out to the side and down, then curve until the tip of each points forward. Bend each as you pin it and hold the curve with a few running stitches along its inner side, drawn up a little. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

5. Pin the two legs to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 5, one to each side, 5½ stitches from the center line (11 stitches apart). The edge (18 sts) covers about rounds 2 to 8 of the body. They point forward and out to the side from under the front edge of the body, lying along the table. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

6. Pin the tail to the body: the middle of the open edge lies on round 6, 14 stitches to the right of the center line. The edge has 5 sts. It points to the right. Sew all the way round with its tail of yarn.

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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 inside the toy. 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.
- Eyes: two 10 mm black plastic eyes, on the head on round 11, one to each side, 4½ stitches from the center line (9 stitches apart).
- Nostrils: with C (charcoal), in satin stitch, a round dot about 3/16 in (5 mm) across, its middle on the muzzle, one to each side, 11/16 in (17 mm) out from its center and ¼ in (6 mm) above the middle of the muzzle.
- Mouth: with C (charcoal), in backstitch, a smile, one curve about 15/16 in (24 mm) wide that dips 3/16 in (5 mm) below its ends. Its two ends are on the muzzle, 3/8 in (10 mm) above the middle of the muzzle, one to each side of its center. It lies between the two nostrils, its ends a little higher than their middles, and the lower half of the muzzle stays bare.
- Cheeks: with D (pink), in satin stitch, an oval about ¼ in (6 mm) wide and 3/16 in (5 mm) tall, its middle on the head between rounds 14 and 15, one to each side, 8½ stitches from the center line (17 stitches apart).
- 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: 10 pieces; 2,166 stitches (744 in the head, 558 in the body, 31 in each ear, 198 in the muzzle, 155 in each arm, 132 in each leg, 30 in the tail); 20 ends to weave in.

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

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