# Hen egg basket

Dozen · US terms



Finished size

**About 9¾ in (25 cm) long, 6¾ in (17 cm) wide and 4 in (10 cm) tall, the head and the tail not counted**

Skill

**Intermediate**

The basket is plain oval rounds; the head is stuffed, and the feathers and wings are small pieces sewn on.

Yarn

**Medium (4), 5 colors**

Hook

**5.5 mm (US I-9)**

Gauge

**12 stitches and 13 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)**

In single crochet.

## You will need

| | |
|---|---|
| Yarn A: black and cream tweed, the basket, the head and three tail feathers | **about 400 yd (366 m), an estimate** |
| Yarn B: barn red, the comb and the wattles | **about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate** |
| Yarn C: golden orange, the beak | **about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate** |
| Yarn D: charcoal, the rim, the wings and four tail feathers | **about 105 yd (96 m), an estimate** |
| Yarn E: cream, the eyes and the marks on the wings | **about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate** |

Fiber: cotton or wool

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

Hook: 5.5 mm (US I-9), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a handful of toy stuffing, 3 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.

## Sizes

| Size | Finished size, about | Yarn, an estimate |
|---|---|---|
| **Dozen (this file)** | **9¾ in (25 cm) long, 6¾ in (17 cm) wide** | **about 550 yd (503 m)** |
| **Large** | 11¾ in (30 cm) long, 8 in (20.5 cm) wide | about 695 yd (636 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) |
| **hdc** | half double crochet (UK htr, half treble) |
| **dc** | double crochet (UK tr, treble) |
| **BLO** | back loop only |
| **MR** | magic ring |
| **st** | stitch |
| **rnd** | round |
| **RS** | right side |

## Gauge

**12 stitches and 13 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 11 the base should measure about 9¾ in (25 cm) long, 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, the head, the beak, the lobes, the eyes and the wings are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round. The feathers are one round, joined with a slip stitch.
- The basket and the wings are ovals. Round 1 is worked along both sides of the foundation chain: along one side, 3 stitches in the last chain, then back along the other side.
- 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 as 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.
- Colors. Basket. Rounds 1 to 23: A. Round 24: D. The head is A, the beak C, the lobes B, the eyes E and the wings D.


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## Instructions

Chosen: Dozen. 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 and dc is treble.

### Basket

**Yarns in order of use: A, black and cream tweed; D, charcoal.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | Ch 11. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 8 chs, 3 sc in last ch,<br>working along the other side of the foundation ch, sc in next 8 chs, 2 sc in last ch | **(22 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 2** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next 8 sts,<br>2 sc in each of next 2 sts | **(28 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 3** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times** | **(34 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 4** | Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times** | **(40 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 5** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times** | **(46 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 6** | Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times** | **(52 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 7** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 3 times**, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times** | **(58 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 8** | Sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times** | **(64 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 9** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts**] 3 times**, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts**] 2 times** | **(70 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 10** | Sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times** | **(76 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 11** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts**] 3 times**, sc in next 8 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts**] 2 times** | **(82 sc)** |

> **Stop and measure now, after round 11.** The base should measure about 9¾ in (25 cm) long and 6¾ in (17 cm) wide. Half an inch (1.5 cm) more or less is near enough; it must lie flat.


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### Sides

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnd 12** | Sc in BLO of each st around | **(82 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnds 13 to 23** | Sc in each st around | **(82 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 24** | With D, sc in each st around | **(82 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Slip stitch in the next stitch to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm). | |

A box for each round, 13 to 23: tick them off as you go.

☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23

## Head and neck

**Yarn A, black and cream tweed.**

Begin at the top of the head. Stuff the head firmly and the neck softly when the last round is done.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **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)** |
| ☐ **Rnds 4 to 7** | Sc in each st around | **(18 sc)** |

A box for each round, 4 to 7: tick them off as you go.

☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7

### Neck

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Rnd 8** | **[**Sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times** | **(21 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 9** | Sc in each st around | **(21 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 10** | **[**Sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times** | **(24 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 11** | Sc in each st around | **(24 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 12** | **[**Sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times** | **(27 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 13** | Sc in each st around | **(27 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 14** | **[**Sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times** | **(30 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 15** | Sc in each st around | **(30 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 16** | **[**Sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times** | **(33 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 17** | Sc in each st around | **(33 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 48 in (122 cm) for sewing. | |


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## Beak

**Yarn C, golden orange.**

Begin at the point. Push a little stuffing in after round 4.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **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** | **[**Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times** | **(9 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 16 in (40.5 cm) for sewing. | |

## Comb and wattle lobe: make 5

**Yarn B, barn red.**

Do not stuff the lobes. Three are the comb and two the wattles.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | Make a magic ring. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | 6 sc in MR | **(6 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnds 2 to 3** | Sc in each st around | **(6 sc)** |

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

☐ 2 ☐ 3

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **End** | Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 14 in (35.5 cm) for sewing. | |

## Eye: make 2

**Yarn E, cream.**

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

## Charcoal feather: make 4

**Yarn D, charcoal.**

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 13. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 3 chs, hdc in next 2 chs, dc in next 4 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 4 chs, hdc in next 2 chs, sc in next 4 chs, sl st in first sc to join | **(8 sc, 11 hdc, 8 dc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a tail of 22 in (56 cm) for sewing. | |


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## Tweed feather: make 3

**Yarn A, black and cream tweed.**

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 13. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 3 chs, hdc in next 2 chs, dc in next 4 chs,<br>hdc in next ch, 5 hdc in last ch, working along the other side of the foundation ch,<br>hdc in next ch, dc in next 4 chs, hdc in next 2 chs, sc in next 4 chs,<br>sl st in first sc to join | **(8 sc, 11 hdc, 8 dc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Fasten off, leaving a tail of 22 in (56 cm) for sewing. | |

## Wing: make 2

**Yarn D, charcoal.**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ **Foundation** | Ch 9. | |
| ☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 6 chs, 3 sc in last ch,<br>working along the other side of the foundation ch, sc in next 6 chs, 2 sc in last ch | **(18 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 2** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next 6 sts,<br>2 sc in each of next 2 sts | **(24 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 3** | 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next 6 sts,<br>**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times** | **(30 sc)** |
| ☐ **Rnd 4** | Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**, sc in next 6 sts,<br>**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times** | **(36 sc)** |
| ☐ **End** | Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 32 in (81.5 cm) for sewing. | |

## Assembly

**1.** Weave in the tails of the basket on the inside. Weave in the starting tails of the wings, the eyes and the feathers on their wrong sides. The starting tails of the head, the beak and the lobes stay inside them.

**2.** The ends. Lay the basket flat with its base folded along its middle the long way, so that each end of the base is at a fold. Put a marker in the rim at each fold: one is the head end, the other, 41 stitches away, the tail end. Open the basket again. The rounds of the sides are counted from 1, the round in BLO, to 13, the rim.

**3.** The face. The last stitch of the neck marks the middle of the back of the head; turn the head so that it is away from you, and the line straight in front of you is the middle of the front. With both strands of D, about 12 in (30.5 cm) long for each eye, make a French knot in the middle of the eye, on its right side. French knot: bring the needle up, wind the yarn twice round it close to the fabric, and put it down again beside the place where it came up, holding the yarn taut. Fasten off at the back. Lay an eye on each side of the head, right side out, its middle on round 5, 4 stitches from the middle of the front. Sew it down with its own tail: bring the needle up through the eye under the top of a stitch and down through the head just outside the edge, 6 stitches. Draw the end inside. Every flat part below is sewn down in this way.

**4.** The beak. Set its open edge on the middle of the front, over rounds 6 to 8 of the head and neck, so that its upper edge is just below round 5, the point outward and a little down. With its tail whip stitch its 9 stitches to the head in a circle. Draw the end inside.

**5.** The comb. Press the lobes flat. Set three of them in a line along the top of the head, from the front to the back, each


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with its flat open edge on the head and its closed end up: each about 1 in (2.5 cm) wide. Begin at the front: the front end of the first lobe is on round 4, at the middle of the front, so that round 5 is free between it and the beak. The second lobe begins where the first ends and lies over the magic ring, and the third begins where the second ends and reaches to about round 6 at the back. They touch and do not overlap. With its own tail sew each open edge to the head, 3 stitches on one side and 3 on the other. The wattles. Press the other two flat too and set them just below the beak, next to each other, with their open edges up and their closed ends hanging down, and sew each in the same way along its open edge. Draw all the ends inside.

**6.** The head goes on at the head end, its beak away from the basket. Lay the front part of the neck's open edge on the outside of the basket, so that its middle is below the marker on round 9 of the sides; bring the two sides of the edge up over the rim, 7 stitches from the marker on each side, and the back part down on the inside, its middle on round 12. Pin it. The back part is 15 of the 33 stitches: the last stitch of the neck, in the middle of the inside, and the 7 stitches on each side of it. The front part is the other 18, outside the rim. With its long tail whip stitch the edge down all round, one stitch for each of its stitches, through the wall; before the last few stitches add stuffing, so that the neck stands firmly. Fasten off inside the basket.

**7.** The tail. The seven feathers lie on the outside of the tail end, right sides out, and spread like a fan; their feet are close together 1¼ in (3 cm) below the rim, straight below the marker. Pin them in this order, each one over the edge of the one before. Think of the face of a clock, with the marker straight above its middle. First the outermost two, which are charcoal: one points to 10, the other to 2. Next two tweed feathers, one on each side, a third of the way from these to 12; then two charcoal ones, two thirds of the way; last the third tweed feather, in the middle, pointing to 12. With its own tail sew each one to the wall along both its edges from the foot to the rim, with a small stitch for each of its stitches; then sew its edge to the next feather for 1 in (2.5 cm) above the rim, so that the fan stands. Fasten off inside.

**8.** The marks of the wings. With one strand of E, about 24 in (61 cm) long for each, sew three V shapes in a row along the middle line of each wing, on the right side, 1 in (2.5 cm) apart. Each V is two straight stitches, each about ½ in (1.5 cm) long, which meet at its point; the points look toward the same end of the wing, the tip. Straight stitch: bring the needle up at one end of the line and down at the other. Fasten off at the back.

**9.** The wings. Pin one to the middle of each long side, right side out, its long way level and its tip toward the tail, its lower edge on round 2 of the sides. With its long tail sew it down along the lower edge and both ends, 24 of its 36 stitches, and leave the 12 stitches in the middle of the upper edge open: the wing is a pocket. Make 3 stitches in one place at each end of the opening. Fasten off inside.

## Finishing

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

In all: 19 pieces; 2,548 stitches (1,638 in the basket, 378 in the head and neck, 25 in the beak, 18 in each comb and wattle lobe, 6 in each eye, 27 in each charcoal feather, 27 in each tweed feather, 108 in each wing).

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


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