Koala basket

Nine inch · US terms



Finished size
About 9¼ in (23.5 cm) across and 7¾ in (19.5 cm) tall, the ears not counted

Skill
Intermediate
The basket is plain rounds; the ears have loop stitch, and the face, arms and leaves are sewn on.

Yarn
Bulky (5), 5 colors

Hook
6.5 mm (US K-10½)

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

You will need

Yarn A: koala gray, the basket, the arms and the ears	**about 250 yd (229 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: cream, the fluff of the ears and the glints	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: charcoal, the nose, the eyes, the mouth and the claws	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: blush pink, the cheeks and the middle of the ears	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: eucalyptus green, the sprig	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton or acrylic

Hook: 6.5 mm (US K-10½), 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
Nine inch (this file)	**9¼ in (23.5 cm) across, 7¾ in (19.5 cm) tall**	**about 305 yd (279 m)**
Eleven inch	10¾ in (27.5 cm) across, 8¾ in (22 cm) tall	about 410 yd (375 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)
BLO	back loop only
MR	magic ring
yo	yarn over (UK yrh, yarn round hook)
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side
WS	wrong side

Special stitches

loop-st (Loop stitch): Insert hook in the place named. Lift a forefinger behind the work so that the yarn lies over it in a loop about ¾ in (2 cm) long, catch both strands of that loop with the hook, the one in front of the finger and the one behind it, and draw both through the stitch, so that 3 loops are on the hook; then yo, pull through all 3 loops, and slip the long loop off the finger. It stands at the back of the work. It leaves 1 loop-st for the next row or round.

Gauge

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

The loop stitch rounds are counted at the same height as single crochet 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 9 in (23 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, the ears, the nose, the eyes, the cheeks and the arms are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round. The leaves are one round, joined with a slip stitch.
- All parts but the ears are worked with the 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.
- The nose is an oval, worked round both sides of a chain: along one side, 3 stitches in the last chain, then back along the other side.
- The stem is one row.
- 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).

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- 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. A: the basket and the arms. B: the fluff of the ears. C: the nose and the eyes. D: the cheeks. E: the stem and the leaves. Ear. Rounds 1 to 2: D. Rounds 3 to 4: B. Round 5: A.

Instructions

Chosen: Nine inch. 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 yo is yarn round hook.

Basket

Yarn A, koala 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**	**[**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 9 in (23 cm) across. Anything from 8¾ in (22 cm) to 9¼ in (23.5 cm) is near enough.

Sides

☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in BLO of each st around	**(72 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 14 to 33**	Sc in each st around	**(72 sc)**

A box for each round, 14 to 33: tick them off as you go.

☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐ 24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26 ☐ 27 ☐ 28 ☐ 29 ☐ 30 ☐ 31 ☐ 32 ☐ 33

☐ **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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Ear: make 2

Yarns in order of use: D, blush pink; B, cream; A, koala gray.

The loops come out at the back of the work, and the side with the loops is the front of the ear: the plain side faces you all the time.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (WS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	With B, **[**loop-st in next st, 2 loop-st in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 loop-sts)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**Loop-st in next 2 sts, 2 loop-st in next st**] 6 times**	**(24 loop-sts)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	With A, **[**loop-st in next 3 sts, 2 loop-st in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 loop-sts)**
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 34 in (86.5 cm) for sewing.	

Nose

Yarn C, charcoal.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 5.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 2 chs, 3 sc in last ch, working along the other side of the foundation ch, sc in next 2 chs, 2 sc in last ch	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in each of next 2 sts	**(16 sc)**
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 28 in (71 cm) for sewing.	

Eye: make 2

Yarn C, charcoal.

☐ **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.	

Cheek: make 2

Yarn D, blush pink.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(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 22 in (56 cm) for sewing.	

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Arm: make 2

Yarn A, koala gray.

Begin at the paw. Stuff the first 10 rounds softly and leave the last 3 rounds empty.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 3 to 13**	Sc in each st around	**(8 sc)**

A box for each round, 3 to 13: tick them off as you go.

☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13

☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 36 in (91.5 cm) for sewing.	

Stem

Yarn E, eucalyptus green.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 5.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(4 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 16 in (40.5 cm) for sewing.	

Leaf: make 3

Yarn E, eucalyptus green.

The leaf is one round along both sides of its chain: the joined end is the narrow one, where it is sewn on; the 3 sc in one chain make the pointed tip.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 6.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next 2 chs, sc in next ch, 3 sc in last ch, working along the other side of the foundation ch, sc in next ch, hdc in next 2 chs, sc in next ch, sl st in first sc to join	**(7 sc, 4 hdc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 12 in (30.5 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Weave in the tails of the basket on the inside, the tail of the magic ring round the middle of the base. Weave in the starting tails of the ears, the nose, the eyes, the cheeks, the stem and the leaves on their backs, and those of the color changes of the ears on their plain side. The starting tails of the arms stay inside them.

2. The front. The last stitch of the sides is at the middle of the back. From there count 36 stitches along the rim: this is the middle of the front. Put a marker in the rim there, and one in the rim at each side of it, 9 stitches away, for the ears. The rounds of the sides are counted from 1, the round in BLO, to 21, the rim.

3. The nose. Lay it on the middle of the front, upright, right side out, its middle on round 16 of the sides, so that its foundation chain runs up and down, and pin it. With its long tail sew it down all round: bring the needle up through the nose under the top of a stitch of its last round and down through the basket just outside the edge, one stitch for each of its 16 stitches. Before the last 2 in (5 cm) push stuffing under it, so that it is well rounded. Fasten off inside the basket. The eyes and cheeks are sewn down in the same way, flat.

4. The eyes and the cheeks. The middle of each eye is on round 18 of the sides, 4 stitches from the middle of the front; the middle of each cheek is on round 14, 7 stitches from the middle of the front. Pin all four, right sides out, and sew each

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down with its own tail, the eyes through 6 stitches and the cheeks through 12. With one strand of B about 12 in (30.5 cm) long make a glint on each eye: one straight stitch about ¼ in (0.5 cm) long on its upper half, at your right on both eyes. Straight stitch: bring the needle up at one end of the line and down at the other. Fasten off inside.

5. The mouth. With a length of C about 18 in (45.5 cm) make three straight stitches. The first goes straight down from the lower edge of the nose, at the middle of the front, and is one round long. The other two begin at its lower end: one goes to a place 3 stitches to the left and one round higher, the other to a place 3 stitches to the right and one round higher. Begin and fasten off inside.

6. The ears. The front of an ear is the side with the loops. The 10 stitches of the last round of the ear that come next after its last stitch, where the long tail hangs, are its lower third. Lay each ear on the outside of the basket, its front toward you, with its lower third at the bottom, on the wall, and the rest of it above the rim: the rim passes behind the ear across round 3, below its middle, and the middle of the ear is straight above the marker. The last stitch, with the tail, is then at the lower right, at the height of the rim. Pin the ear and lift the loops out of the way. With the long tail sew the edge of the lower third to the wall, under the loops, from the lower right round the bottom to the lower left, one stitch for each of the 10 stitches. You are at the rim again, at the left: bring the needle to the inside of the basket and sew the rim to the back of the ear, from this end of the lower third to the other, 8 small stitches in a straight line, each through a stitch of the rim and through the plain side of the ear only. Fasten off inside. Draw the loops out all round.

7. The sprig. Lay the stem on the middle of the front, upright, right side up, its lower end at the lower edge of round 1 of the sides, just above the base; it reaches to about round 4. Pin it and sew it down with its long tail: bring the needle up beside it and down through its edge, up one side and down the other, one stitch for each stitch of the stem. Fasten off inside.

8. The leaves. Think of the face of a clock whose middle is the upper end of the stem. Each leaf is sewn by its narrow end, right side up, with its own tail and 5 small stitches through the end of the stem and the basket beneath; its narrow end covers the last ¼ in (0.5 cm) of the stem. Sew on the two lower leaves first: the tip of one points midway between 10 and 11, the tip of the other midway between 1 and 2. Sew the third leaf over them, its tip straight up, at 12. The rest of each leaf is free. Fasten off inside.

9. The arms. Flatten the open end of each and with its long tail whip stitch it shut, 4 stitches of the front to 4 of the back. The shut end goes on the basket upright, its middle on round 7 of the sides, 10 stitches from the middle of the front, one arm on each side, with the paw toward the middle of the front. With the same tail sew the shut end down flat, 4 stitches and 4 more over them. Each arm runs inward and down to the sprig in one easy curve that sags only a little, without a fold; the tips of the two paws lie on the two edges of the stem, at the height of round 3, so that the stem is seen between them. The leaves are above the arms; where the tip of one meets an arm it lies on top of it. Pin the arms. For each arm take a new length of A about 24 in (61 cm) and sew the side that lies on the basket down from round 1, at the tip of the paw, to round 7 of the arm: one stitch through the arm and one through the basket by turns, 8 stitches in all. Fasten off inside.

10. The claws. With a length of C about 24 in (61 cm) for each paw make three straight stitches on the tip of the paw, on the part that faces you, side by side and one stitch apart: each is about ½ in (1.5 cm) long, begins at the magic ring and goes back over round 1 and into round 2. Fasten off under the paw.

Finishing

- Weave all the tails that are left in on the inside. The loops of the ears stay closed: do not cut them.

In all: 14 pieces.

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

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