Ladybug applique

US terms



Finished size
About 3¼ in (8 cm) wide and about 4¾ in (12 cm) tall

Skill
Beginner
Worked in rounds, with 2 pieces and color changes.

Yarn
Medium (4), 3 colors

Hook
5 mm (US H-8)

Gauge
After round 2 the body measures about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) across.

What you need

Yarn A: bright red, the body	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: black, the head	**about 8 yd (7 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: white, the sewn details	**about 2 yd (2 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 10 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking and a spray bottle.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. Yarns A and B: the estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added. Yarn C: the estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

Gauge

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. After round 2 the body measures about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) across.

Notes

- Rounds are worked with the right side facing; do not turn.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work the first round or row into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed. Four chains joined into a ring with a slip stitch may be used instead.
- A chain 1 at the start of a round does not count as a stitch.
- At the start of a round, same st is the stitch the round before was joined in.
- A round worked in each st around begins in the st the round before was joined in.

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- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches are not counted.
- The finished size takes in the feelers.
- The distances under FINISHING are for the yarn and gauge above; in another yarn make them larger or smaller in the same proportion as the size.
- Backstitch (sewn): thread the yarn needle and bring it up from the back one stitch length (about ¼ in, 0.6 cm, and half that round a small curve, unless the line names another) along the line. Put it down at the start of the line and bring it up again one stitch length ahead of where it last came up; keep going down at the end of the stitch before and up one length ahead.
- French knot (sewn): bring the yarn needle up from the back, wrap the yarn twice round the needle close to the surface, hold the wraps and put the needle down beside the place where it came up. For a large knot use the yarn double and wrap it three times.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured the longest way: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 3¼ in (8 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 3¾ in (10 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 6 in (15 cm).

Instructions

US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **st** stitch, **rnd** round.
RS right side, the one that shows.
2 hdc in next st: both in one stitch. **hdc in next 2 sts**: one in each.
[ ] 7 times: work what is inside 7 times in all.
(8 hdc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Body

Yarn A, bright red.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 8 hdc in ring, pull the tail to close the ring, sl st in first hdc to join	(8 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 hdc in each st around, sl st in first hdc to join	(16 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, hdc in same st, 2 hdc in next st, **[**hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st**] 7 times**, sl st in first hdc to join	(24 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, hdc in same st, hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, **[**hdc in next 2 sts, 2 hdc in next st**] 7 times**, sl st in first hdc to join	(32 hdc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 35 in (89 cm) tail, for sewing this piece down at the end.	

Head

Yarn B, black.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 8 hdc in ring, pull the tail to close the ring, sl st in first hdc to join	(8 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 hdc in each st around, sl st in first hdc to join	(16 hdc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing.	

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Finishing

- Block: pin the pieces to shape on a flat surface, spray them with water and let them dry.
- Sew the head behind the edge of the body, so that half of it shows. This is the top.
- With B, work a line of backstitch straight down the middle of the body, from the head to the lower edge, in stitches 3/8 in (1 cm) long.
- With B, work six extra large French knots for the spots (the yarn double, wrapped four times), three to each side of the line: ¾ in (1.9 cm) from the line and ¾ in (1.9 cm) above the middle of the body; 1 in (2.5 cm) from the line and 1/8 in (0.3 cm) below the middle; ½ in (1.3 cm) from the line and 1 in (2.5 cm) below the middle.
- With C, work a large French knot for each eye on the head, 3/8 in (1 cm) above the edge of the body and 5/8 in (1.6 cm) apart. With B, work a French knot, wrapped once, in the middle of each.
- For the feelers, join B with sl st in the top edge of the head, ¼ in (0.6 cm) to one side of its middle, ch 3 and fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail; make the second ¼ in (0.6 cm) to the other side. Run the tail at each tip back down its own chain. The feelers slant up and outward, half way between upright and level.
- To sew the applique to your project, pin it where it is to go and sew round its edge with the long tail, under the outermost strands of the stitches; where a part is of another color, use a length of that color.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 2 pieces; 104 stitches (80 in the body, 24 in the head).

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

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