Ladybug backpack

US terms



Finished size
About 10¼ in (26 cm) across and 3½ in (9 cm) deep, with straps about 22½ in (57 cm) long before sewing

Skill
Easy
It is flat circles and straight strips, with a flap shaped at its end.

Yarn
Medium (4), 3 colors

Hook
4.5 mm (US 7)

Gauge
15 stitches and 16 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: ladybug red, the front, the antenna tips	**about 100 yd (91 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: black, everything else	**about 375 yd (343 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: white, the eyes	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 4.5 mm (US 7), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a round black button about 1 in (2.5 cm) across, with sewing thread and a sewing needle, a handful of toy stuffing, four 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.

Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

ch	chain stitch
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together (UK dc2tog)
MR	magic ring
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side

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Gauge

15 stitches and 16 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 20 the front should measure about 10¼ in (26 cm) across, laid flat and not stretched. 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 every round piece are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round.
- The gusset, the head flap and the straps are worked in rows. The chain of 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug. To sew a piece flat on another, take up the edge of the upper one and one strand of the lower one in each stitch.
- Weave the starting tail of every small part in on its wrong side before the part is sewn shut or sewn on.
- For longer straps begin each with more chains: 15 more for every 4 in (10 cm). Every row then has as many more stitches, and the two straps together take about 14 yd (13 m) more yarn for every 4 in (10 cm), with 30 percent over.
- The backpack has a button: it is for a child of school age, not for one under three.
- Colors. The front is A. The back, the gusset, the head flap, the spots, the pupils and the straps are B. The eyes are C. An antenna begins in A, and its stem is B.

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 and sc2tog is dc2tog.

Front

Yarn A, ladybug red.

☐ **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)**

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☐ **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)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 11 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 6 sts	**(78 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**Sc in next 12 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(84 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	Sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 7 sts	**(90 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**Sc in next 14 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(96 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 15 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 8 sts	**(102 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**Sc in next 16 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(108 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	Sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 17 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 9 sts	**(114 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**Sc in next 18 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(120 sc)**

> **Stop and measure now, after round 20.** The front should measure about 10¼ in (26 cm) across.

☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Back

Yarn B, black.

☐ **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)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 11 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 6 sts	**(78 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**Sc in next 12 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(84 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 15**	Sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 7 sts	**(90 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**Sc in next 14 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(96 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 15 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 8 sts	**(102 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**Sc in next 16 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(108 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	Sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 17 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 9 sts	**(114 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**Sc in next 18 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(120 sc)**
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Gusset

Yarn B, black.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 89.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(88 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 14**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(88 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 14: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Head flap

Yarn B, black.

Work the head after step 1 of Assembly. Hold the back with its right side toward you and the 32 marked stitches at the top. Join B with a slip stitch in the marked stitch at the right-hand end of them (at the left-hand end if you work left-handed). The first single crochet of row 1 goes into that same stitch, through both loops like all the others, and the last one into the other marked stitch. Take out the markers of the back.

☐ **Foundation**	The top edge of the back, RS facing; 32 stitches.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, sc in each st across	**(32 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 17**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(32 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 17: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

☐ **Row 18**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 28 sts, sc2tog	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Row 19**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 26 sts, sc2tog	**(28 sc)**
☐ **Row 20**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 24 sts, sc2tog	**(26 sc)**
☐ **Row 21**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 22 sts, sc2tog	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Row 22**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 20 sts, sc2tog	**(22 sc)**
☐ **Row 23**	Ch 1, turn; **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**, sc in next 14 sts, **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(18 sc)**

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☐ **Row 24**	Ch 1, turn; **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**, sc in next 10 sts, **[**sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Row 25**	Ch 1, turn; **[**sc2tog**] 3 times**, sc in next 2 sts, **[**sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Eye: make 2

Yarn C, white.

☐ **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)**
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 14 in (36 cm).	

Pupil: make 2

Yarn B, black.

☐ **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 10 in (25 cm).	

Large spot: make 4

Yarn B, black.

☐ **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)**
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 20 in (50 cm).	

Small spot: make 2

Yarn B, black.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 14 in (36 cm).	

Antenna: make 2

Yarns in order of use: A, ladybug red; B, black.

To change color, draw B through as the last yarn over of the last stitch of round 5, and cut A.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 3 to 4**	Sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**

A box for each round, 3 to 4: tick them off as you go.

3 4

☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**Sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	With B, sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 7 to 13**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**

A box for each round, 7 to 13: tick them off as you go.

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 12 in (30 cm).	

Strap: make 2

Yarn B, black.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 85.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(84 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 6**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(84 sc)**

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

2 3 4 5 6

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 16 in (41 cm) to sew one end. To sew the other end, cut a new length of the same yarn, also 16 in (41 cm).	

Assembly

1. On the front, put a marker in the first and in the last of any 32 stitches of round 20 that follow each other. They are the opening; turn the front so that they are at the top. The middle line of the front runs from between the 16th and the 17th of them straight down through the magic ring. Mark 32 stitches of the back in the same way. The right side of every piece, the side that faces you as you work the rounds, is the outside of the bag; on the gusset and the straps it is the side of row 1.

2. Work the head flap on the back as written.

3. For the line between the wings, hold B at the wrong side of the front. Put the hook through the front from the right side on the middle line, between round 10 and round 11 above the magic ring, and draw up a loop of B. Go down along the middle line: put the hook in one round farther down, draw up a loop and pull it through the loop on the hook. Work one such slip stitch over every round, down over the magic ring and on to the edge, 30 in all. Cut the yarn, draw its end

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through the last loop and take it to the wrong side.

4. Sew on the spots, right side up, each with its own tail, with small whip stitches all round its edge. All measures are from the magic ring of the front to the middle of the spot. On each side of the line: a large spot 2¼ in (5.5 cm) to the side and ¾ in (2 cm) up; a large spot 1¾ in (4.5 cm) to the side and 2¼ in (5.5 cm) down; and a small spot 3¾ in (9.5 cm) to the side and 1¼ in (3 cm) down.

5. Sew a pupil to each eye, right side up, with whip stitches round its edge: its middle is ¼ in (0.5 cm) below the middle of the eye and ¼ in (0.5 cm) nearer to the other eye. With C, sew one stitch ¼ in (0.5 cm) long on each pupil, at its upper right, slanting up to the right. The head lies over the front with its right side out. With the tails, sew the eyes to it with whip stitches round their edges: the middle of an eye is on row 20, 5½ stitches from the middle of the row.

6. For the button loop, join B with a slip stitch in the 3rd stitch of row 25, the last row of the head, chain 9, skip 2 stitches and slip stitch in the next, the 6th. Fasten off and work the ends in on the wrong side.

7. Cut two lengths of B, each 82 in (208 cm) long. With one, whip stitch the 88 chains of the foundation edge of the gusset to the 88 stitches of the front between the two markers, round by the sides and the foot, one to one, both wrong sides inward. The 32 stitches of the top, with the markers in them, stay free. With the other length sew the 88 stitches of the last row of the gusset to the back in the same way: the 32 stitches that the head is worked on stay free, and the two openings lie opposite each other. Take out the markers.

8. Fill the tip of each antenna firmly with stuffing and its stem lightly. With its tail, sew the open end, all 6 stitches, upright to the right side of the head: on row 7, its middle 4½ stitches from the middle of the row. The two lean a little apart.

9. Each strap is about 22½ in (57 cm) long. Both are sewn to the outside of the back, 1 in (2.5 cm) of each end, down round all its edges, with a tail at one end and the new length at the other. At the top the ends stand upright, straight above the middle of the back, one on each side of its middle line with ½ in (1.5 cm) between them: the short edge of each is on round 10, counted from the magic ring, and the 1 in (2.5 cm) that is sewn down covers the four rounds above it, 11 to 14, so that the straps leave them upward. At the foot the ends lie level, straight below the middle: the 1½ in (4 cm) of their width covers six rounds, 11 to 16, and their short edges are 1½ in (4 cm) from the middle line of the back, one on each side, so that the straps leave them toward the sides. Pin both straps and try the bag on before the foot ends are sewn: there you can make them shorter. See that no strap is twisted.

10. Lay the head over the front. With sewing thread, sew the button to the right side of the front on the middle line, where the loop lies, about 7 rounds above the magic ring.

Finishing

- Weave the tails that are left in on the wrong side.

In all: 17 pieces; 6,254 stitches.

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

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