Mouse hand puppet

US terms



Finished size

About 10 in (25.5 cm) tall to the top of the ears and 8 in (20.5 cm) across the arms when they point straight out to the two sides, the waistcoat 9½ in (24 cm) round

Skill

Intermediate

16 pieces worked in rounds and rows and sewn together.

Yarn

Medium (4), 6 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.

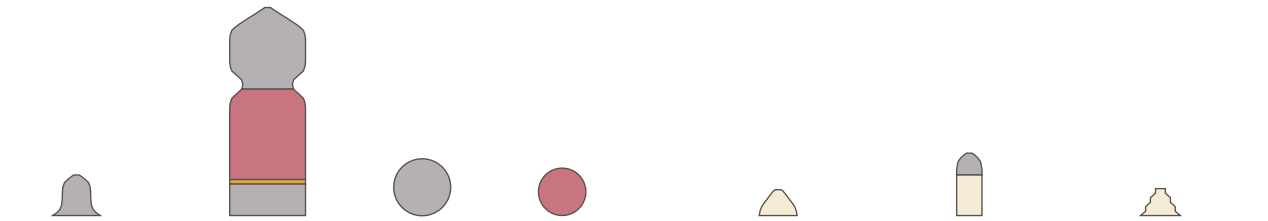
What you need

Yarn A: dove gray	**about 130 yd (119 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: dusty rose, head and body, inner ear, tail and the details	**about 100 yd (91 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: cream, several of the pieces	**about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: mustard, several of the pieces	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: dark brown, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: caramel, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 150 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins, scissors and two black plastic eyes with washers, 10 mm.

The pieces



Finger pocket

Head and body

Ear x 2

Inner ear x 2

Muzzle
to the head and body

Arm x 2

Shirt front
to the head and body

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Pocket **Cheese side x 2** **Bow tie** **Bow knot** **Tail**
to the head and body

Gauge

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

20 sc and 22 rounds or rows = 4 in (10 cm). To check it, work a flat circle in a spiral: 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.

Use any hook that gives you this. If you count more stitches than this in 4 in (10 cm), change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, to a smaller one.

Instructions

US terms.

sc single crochet (UK dc), **ch** chain, **sc2tog** 2 sc made into one, **BLO** only the loop away from you, **st** stitch.
2 sc in next st: **both in one stitch**. Sc in next 2 sts: one in each.
Rounds run in a **spiral**: mark the first stitch and move the marker up each round. **Working in the round**
[ ] 6 times: 6 times in all. (18 sc): the round now has 18; a check, not a step. **How to read a pattern**
Also: RS right side, yo yarn over.
Every stitch, drawn: flossfield.com/crochet/stitches.

Finger pocket

Yarn A, dove gray.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring. *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.*	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rounds 4 to 9** 4 5 6 7 8 9	Sc in each st around	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 10**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Round 11**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Rounds 1 to 9 are a tube for one or two fingers, and rounds 10 and 11 widen it to the neck.	

Head and body

Begin with yarn A, dove gray.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)

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☐ **Round 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Round 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Round 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Round 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Round 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rounds 9 to 17**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		
☐ **Round 18**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Round 19**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Round 20**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rounds 21 to 22**	Sc in each st around	(30 sc)
21 22		
☐ **Round 23**	With B, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Round 24**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Round 25**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 26**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 24 and 25 of round 26. It faces the front, round 1 at the top.		
☐ **Round 27**	Sc in next 8 sts, ch 8 and skip next 8 sts, sc in next 16 sts, ch 8 and skip next 8 sts, sc in next 8 sts	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 28**	Sc in each st and in each ch around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rounds 29 to 43**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43		
☐ **Round 44**	With D, sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rounds 45 to 47**	With A, sc in each st around	(48 sc)
45 46 47		
☐ **Round 48**	Sc in BLO of each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rounds 49 to 51**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
49 50 51		
☐	Fasten off and weave in the end. Fix the eyes now (see Finishing). Do this before you stuff the piece or sew it on. Rounds 1 to 20 are the head, rounds 21 and 22 the neck, rounds 23 to 43 the waistcoat and rounds 44 to 51 the cuff. The head is stuffed when the finger pocket goes in (step 1 of Assembly).	

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Ear: make 2

Yarn A, dove gray.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Round 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Round 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a 28 in (71 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat with the right side up.	

Inner ear: make 2

Yarn B, dusty rose.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Round 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat with the right side up.	

Muzzle

Yarn C, cream.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(10 sc)
☐ **Round 3**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**	(14 sc)
☐ **Round 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(22 sc)
☐ **Round 6**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Round 7**	Sc in each st around	(24 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a 22 in (56 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge. Shape the stuffed piece with your fingers into an oval, about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) wide and 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) tall.	

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Arm: make 2

Begin with yarn A, dove gray.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 4 times**	(16 sc)
☐ **Rounds 4 to 6** 4 5 6	Sc in each st around	(16 sc)
☐ **Rounds 7 to 15** 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15	With C, sc in each st around	(16 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

Shirt front

Yarn C, cream.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 2 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Start**	With C, ch 3.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	(2 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in each of next 2 sts	(4 sc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	(4 sc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st	(6 sc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	(6 sc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st	(8 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a 22 in (56 cm) tail for sewing. The last row is its top and the foundation chain is its point.	

Pocket

Yarn C, cream.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 10 stitches wide. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Start**	With C, ch 11.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	(10 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 7** 2 3 4 5 6 7	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	(10 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a 20 in (51 cm) tail for sewing. The last row is the top of the pocket.	

Cheese side: make 2

Yarn D, mustard.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 7 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Start**	With D, ch 8.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	(7 sc)

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☐ **Rows 2 to 3** 2 3	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	(7 sc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog	(6 sc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog	(5 sc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog	(4 sc)
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog	(3 sc)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next st, sc2tog	(2 sc)
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog	(1 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a 20 in (51 cm) tail for sewing. Row 1 is the broad end of the cheese and row 9 is its point.	

Bow tie

Yarn D, mustard.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 9 stitches wide. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Start**	With D, ch 10.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	(9 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 5** 2 3 4 5	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	(9 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. Gather it: thread a new length of D (mustard) through the middle stitch of each row, from the foundation chain to row 5, draw it up until the middle is about 3/8 in (10 mm) tall, and fasten it.	

Bow knot

Yarn D, mustard.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rounds 2 to 3** 2 3	Sc in each st around	(6 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and leave its end outside for sewing. Do not stuff.	

Tail

Yarn B, dusty rose.

Stuff the tail firmly as you go, every 4 rounds or so, with the end of the hook, so that it can stand.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	4 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(4 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st	(5 sc)
☐ **Round 3**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts	(6 sc)

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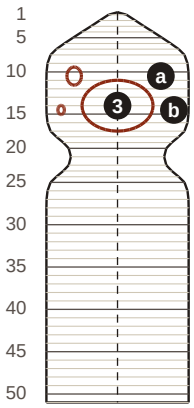
☐ **Rounds 4 to 31** Sc in each st around (6 sc)

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

☐ Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. The stuffing goes right up to the open edge.

Assembly



Head and body: 3 muzzle, a eyes, b cheeks

A number is the step below that puts it on; a letter is put on under Finishing. 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. Finger pocket: fill the head with stuffing from below, firmly, all round and above a hollow about 2 in (5 cm) deep in the middle of the neck. Push the finger pocket up into the hollow, round 1 first, until its open edge (30 sts) lies inside the neck along round 21 (30 sts) of the head and body. With the tail of the finger pocket, sew the edge to the inside of round 21, stitch to stitch, all the way round. The finger pocket is open below.

2. Sew one inner ear flat to the side of each ear that will face forward, the right side of the ear, its own right side out, round 1 over round 1. Sew down all 30 stitches of the edge with its tail. Then sew the two ears to the head and body: each stands on its edge, and the last 8 stitches of its round 6, where its tail hangs, are sewn on along a slanting line. The line runs a quarter of the way round from the center line, straight from round 2 down to round 10: its inner end is on round 2 (12 sts), 3 stitches from the center line; its middle lies on round 6 (36 sts), one to each side, 9 stitches from the center line (18 stitches apart); and its outer end is on round 10 (48 sts), 12 stitches from the center line. The line is 8 rounds long, about 1½ in (4 cm), and the two ends of the 8 stitches are just as far apart when the ear lies flat, so nothing is gathered. Bring the stitches between the ends down to the curve of the head: the ear then cups a little. The inner ears look forward. Go along the front and then along the back of the line with the tail of the ear.

3. Pin the muzzle to the head and body: the middle of the open edge lies on round 14, on the center line. The edge (24 sts) covers about rounds 11 to 17 of the head and body, and it is a little wider than it is tall. It points forward. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if it is still soft.

4. Sew the two arms into the two arm openings of the head and body, the gray ends outward: the edge of each (16 sts) goes all the way round the opening, 8 of its stitches to the 8 skipped stitches of round 26 above and 8 to the chains of round 27 below, stitch to stitch, with the tail. The way from the waistcoat into the arm stays open. The middle of each opening is 12 stitches from the center line, a quarter of the way round, so the arms point straight out to the two sides. With your fingers in them they bend up and forward.

5. Lay the shirt front on the head and body, right side out: its last row (8 sts) along round 22, the middle on the center line, 4 stitches to each side of it, and its foundation chain on the center line on round 28. Sew it down all the way round with its tail.

6. Pocket: its foundation chain lies along round 42 of the head and body and its last row is the top, on round 35, right side out. It is 10 stitches wide but covers only 8 stitches of the waistcoat, from 1 to 9 stitches to the left of the center line, so that it stands a little open. With the tail of the pocket sew down the side where it hangs, then the foundation chain, its third and fourth chains to one stitch, its seventh and eighth chains to one stitch and each of the other six chains to one stitch, and then the other side. The two sides go straight up and down. The top stays open.

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7. Bow tie: lay it across the neck in front, right side out, its 9 stitches running from left to right, its middle on the center line between rounds 21 and 22, over the top of the shirt front. Sew down the middle with its tail, and catch each short end to round 21 of the neck with two stitches, 4½ stitches from the center line.

8. Press the bow knot a little flat and lay one of its sides on the middle of the bow tie, its length running up and down, round 1 at the bottom and the closed hole, where its tail hangs, at the top, so that it crosses the gathered middle of the bow tie from its upper edge to its lower edge. With the tail, sew it down along its left side, across its lower end, along its right side and across its upper end, through the bow tie to the neck.

9. Pin the tail to the head and body: the middle of the open edge (6 sts) lies on round 46, 15 stitches to the right of the center line, so toward the back. It points to the right and back. Sew all the way round with its tail of yarn, then go round a second time, catching round 30 of the tail to the cuff close outside the first seam, so that it stands out firmly. Now make its two bends, each with a new length of B (dusty rose) and one running stitch in each round: first from round 29 to round 23, along the side that looks to the front, drawn up until the rest of the tail runs straight out to the right; then from round 18 to round 4, along its upper side, drawn up until this part rises in a curve and the tip (round 1) points straight up. Fasten each length well: the stuffing and these stitches hold the tail up.

10. Cheese: work the cheese holes (see Finishing). Hold the two cheese sides together with wrong sides together, row 1 over row 1, and whip stitch round them, over the edge and through both layers, with one of their tails. Put in a thin layer of stuffing before the last stitches. Slip the cheese into the pocket, its broad end down and its holes to the front, until the top of row 3 is level with the top edge of the pocket: rows 1 to 3 are inside, and rows 4 to 9 with the three holes stand up above it. So that it does not slide to the bottom, hold it there with a new length of D (mustard): four small stitches along row 3, worked from inside the puppet through the waistcoat and the back cheese side.

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 on the wrong side of a flat piece, inside a stuffed one. 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.
- Nose: with B (dusty rose), in satin stitch, an oval about 3/8 in (10 mm) wide and ¼ in (6 mm) tall, its middle on the muzzle, ¼ in (6 mm) straight above the middle of round 1.
- Mouth: with E (dark brown), in backstitch, from the bottom of the nose a straight line down, 1/8 in (3 mm) long, and from its lower end two small smile curves side by side, one to each side, together about ½ in (13 mm) wide and 3/16 in (5 mm) deep.
- Eyes: two 10 mm black plastic eyes, on the head and body between rounds 10 and 11, one to each side, 5 stitches from the center line (10 stitches apart).
- Cheeks: with B (dusty rose), in satin stitch, an oval about ¼ in (6 mm) wide and 3/16 in (5 mm) tall, its middle on the head and body between rounds 14 and 15, one to each side, 7 stitches from the center line (14 stitches apart).
- Cheese holes: with F (caramel), in satin stitch, three ovals on the right side of one cheese side, with its point (row 9) up: one about 5/16 in (8 mm) wide and ¼ in (6 mm) tall, its middle between rows 4 and 5, 2 stitches in from the left edge; one about ¼ in (6 mm) wide and 3/16 in (5 mm) tall, its middle between rows 5 and 6, 1½ stitches in from the right edge; and one about 3/16 in (5 mm) wide and tall, in the middle of row 7.
- Buttons: with D (mustard), in satin stitch, three round dots, each about 3/16 in (5 mm) across, on the head and body, on the center line: on rounds 30, 34 and 38.
- Weave every end through the inside of the puppet and trim it close, so that no finger catches in it. Check the seams and small parts from time to time.

In all: 16 pieces; 3,820 stitches.

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.

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Notes

- Every piece that has rounds 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.
- The head and body are one piece, worked from the top of the head down. The hand goes in at the cuff: one or two fingers up into the finger pocket in the head, the thumb into one arm and another finger into the other.
- Color change: where a line begins "With B," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in B. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- 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 and body: the center line runs between stitches 24 and 25 of round 26 (48 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the top.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the puppet. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- Running stitches go in and out along a line.
- In every step of putting it together: where a piece meets or overlaps another, sew through both. Where no tail is left or a tail is too short, sew with a new length of the yarn of the piece you are putting on.
- 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 E (dark brown).
- Small for a child, Standard for an adult: measure round the hand at its widest place, the thumb laid in; the waistcoat should be a little more than that.
- 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, the size written here: for another size multiply them by the number in its line.
- Small: light (3, DK) yarn, 3 mm (C-2 or D-3) hook, 23 sc and 25.3 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 8¾ in (22 cm) tall to the top of the ears and 7 in (18 cm) across the arms when they point straight out to the two sides, the waistcoat 8¼ in (21 cm) round; eyes 9 mm; multiply lengths by 0.87; about 0.87 times the yarn.
- Whip stitch: hold the two edges together, put the needle through both from back to front, bring the yarn over the edges and go in again from the back, one stitch along.

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

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