Owl pillow

US terms



Finished size
About 14¾ in (37 cm) square before it is stuffed and 13½ in (34 cm) after, without the tassels and the feet

Skill
Easy
Shells in rows, flat rounds, and pieces to sew on

Yarn
Medium (4), 6 colors

Hook
4.5 mm (US 7)

Gauge
15 stitches and 17 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: teal, main color	**about 350 yd (320 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: mustard, the foot and more	**about 55 yd (50 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: cream, the front, rows 25 to 26, 33 to 34 and 41 to 42 and the eye, rounds 6 to 9	**about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: terracotta, the front, rows 29 to 30, 37 to 38 and 45 to 46 and the beak	**about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: sea glass, the front, rows 31 to 32, 39 to 40 and 47 to 48 and the wing, round 6	**about 45 yd (41 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: charcoal, the eye, rounds 1 to 3	**about 6 yd (5 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 280 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Hook: 4.5 mm (US 7), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, a tape measure and about 20 pins and polyester fiberfill (stuffing): about 14 oz (400 g).

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 15 percent added.

Gauge

15 stitches and 17 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet. Along a row, count every stitch and every chain between stitches as one.

Begin with the front and check it there, laid flat and not stretched, when 10 rows are done: the 55 stitches of a row are about 14¾ in (37 cm) wide, and the 10 rows are about 2 3/8 in (6 cm) tall. A shell and the sc beside it take the place of 6 stitches, and two rows of shells are about ¾ in (2 cm) tall. If they measure more, start again with a smaller hook; if they measure less, with a larger one. The cloth should be close enough to hide the stuffing.

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Notes

- The ch 1 at the start of a row or a round does not count as a stitch.
- The front is worked from the top down, so that the round edges of the shells point down like feathers. Its foundation chain is the top of the owl.
- The ch 3 at the start of a row of shells counts as a dc.
- Five double crochets in one stitch make one shell.
- Leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) when you begin and when you fasten off, unless another length is given. The ends that are not sewn with are woven in.
- When a ball runs out, work the last yarn over of a stitch with the next ball, and leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) on both.
- Whip stitch: with the yarn on a yarn needle, pass the needle through the edge of one piece and through the edge that lies against it, and pull the yarn through. Do the same in the next stitch of each edge. On an edge of stitches the needle goes under both loops of the stitch; on a foundation chain under the two strands of the chain that are left free; on a side edge, which has no loops, through the end stitch of the row. Where a piece is laid on the middle of another, the needle goes through the edge of the piece laid on, in one of these three ways, and then under two strands of the cloth right beside that edge. Fasten a length where the sewing begins and where it ends: sew 2 or 3 times into the same place.
- Magic ring: wind the yarn once round two fingers, put the hook through the ring and pull up a loop of the working yarn. Round 1 begins with this loop on the hook. Work round 1 into the ring, over both strands, then pull the tail to close it.
- In joined rounds, the first stitch of a round goes into the same stitch as the joining sl st. The joining sl st itself is not a stitch and is not worked into. Round 9 of the eye is the one exception: it begins by skipping the stitch with the joining sl st.
- The right side of a round is the side that faces you as you work it.
- To change yarn at the end of a row, work the last yarn over of its last stitch with the new yarn. In the eyes and the wings make the joining sl st before the change with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn each time, leaving a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) on both. Weave these ends in on the wrong side.
- Backstitch: bring the needle up at the second place named and take it down at the first, then up at the third and down at the second, and so on to the last place. A straight stitch is one stitch from the first place named to the second. Leave the beginning of each strand hanging about 4 in (10 cm) on the wrong side, and weave in both ends there.
- Choose a yarn that may be washed by machine, and wash the pillow as the ball bands say.
- For a child under three leave off the tassels and sew everything down twice.
- Buy whole balls from one dye lot.

Instructions

US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **Rnd** round, **st** stitch.
sc2tog 2 sc made into one, **sc3tog** 3 sc made into one, **sk** skip, **yo** yarn over the hook, **RS** right side, the one that shows.
5 dc in next st: all in one stitch. **sc in next 54 sts**: one in each.
[ ] 9 times: work what is inside 9 times in all.
(55 sc): the stitches you have when the row is done. **How to read a pattern**.

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Front

Yarns in order of use: A, teal; C, cream; B, mustard; D, terracotta; E, sea glass.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 56.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(55 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 24**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(55 sc)

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

The feathers: 12 stripes of two rows

☐ **Row 25**	With C, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 9 times**	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 26**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)
☐ **Row 27**	With B, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 28**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)
☐ **Row 29**	With D, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 30**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)
☐ **Row 31**	With E, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 32**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)
☐ **Row 33**	With C, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 34**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)
☐ **Row 35**	With B, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 36**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)

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☐ **Row 37**	With D, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 38**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)
☐ **Row 39**	With E, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 40**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)
☐ **Row 41**	With C, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 42**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)
☐ **Row 43**	With B, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 44**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)
☐ **Row 45**	With D, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 46**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)
☐ **Row 47**	With E, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(10 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Row 48**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in last st	(46 dc, 9 sc)

The lower edge

☐ **Row 49**	With A, ch 1, turn; sc in next 54 sts, sc in top of turning ch	(55 sc)
☐ **Row 50**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(55 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

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Back

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 56.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(55 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 62**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(55 sc)

2 3 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 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57
58 59 60 61 62

☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Eye: make 2

Yarns in order of use: F, charcoal; B, mustard; C, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	With F, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1, 6 sc in ring; pull the tail to close the ring; join with sl st in first sc	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	With B, ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	With C, ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(48 sc)

The shells round the eye: round 9 skips the stitch with the joining sl st, and the first shell goes into the stitch after it. The last sc goes into the last stitch of round 8

☐ **Rnd 9**	Ch 1, **[**sk next st, 5 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 12 times**; join with sl st in first dc	(60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 50 in (127 cm) to sew with.	

Beak

Yarn D, terracotta.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 8.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(7 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(7 sc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog	(3 sc, 2 sc2tog)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(5 sc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next st, sc2tog	(1 sc, 2 sc2tog)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(3 sc)

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☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn; sc3tog	(1 sc3tog)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 26 in (66 cm) to sew with.	

Wing: make 2

Yarns in order of use: A, teal; E, sea glass.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 17.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 3 chs, hdc in next 4 chs, dc in next 7 chs, 3 dc in last ch, working along the other side of the chain, 3 dc in same ch, dc in next 7 chs, hdc in next 4 chs, sc in next 4 chs; join with sl st in first sc	(8 sc, 8 hdc, 20 dc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, hdc in next 4 sts, dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in each of next 6 sts, dc in next 7 sts, hdc in next 4 sts, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st; join with sl st in first sc	(10 sc, 8 hdc, 26 dc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 16 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 14 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st; join with sl st in first sc	(50 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, 2 sc in each of next 2 sts, sc in next 18 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 16 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st; join with sl st in first sc	(56 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 17 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 18 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts; join with sl st in first sc	(62 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	With E, ch 1, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 18 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 21 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts; join with sl st in first sc	(68 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 60 in (152 cm) to sew with.	

Foot: make 2

Yarn B, mustard.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 10.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(9 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in last st	(11 sc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in last st	(13 sc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(13 sc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in first st, **[**sk next st, 7 dc in next st, sk next st, sl st in next st**] 3 times**	(4 sl sts, 21 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 28 in (71 cm) to sew with.	

Assembly

1. Weave in the ends that are not sewn with. Lay the front with its right side up and its foundation chain, the top of the owl, away from you. Rows are counted from the top, and stitches from the right edge as it lies.

2. Wings: lay one on the right half with its right side up and its wide end toward the top, so that the middle of its wide

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end is in row 25, 11 stitches in from the right edge, and the middle of its narrow end, where its rounds begin, is in row 45, 7 stitches in from the right edge. Pin it and sew it down all round with its tail, one whip stitch in each stitch of its last round: 68 stitches. Sew the other on the left half in the same way, counting from the left edge.

3. Eyes: lay one with its right side up and its middle on stitch 17 of row 13, and the other with its middle on stitch 39 of row 13. Each eye is sewn down with its tail along round 8, under the shells of round 9, which stay free. First bring the tail, which hangs at the top of the first shell, down to round 8: run it along the wrong side of the first dc and out at its foot. Fold the shells in toward the middle of the eye and work from outside, with the foot of the shells at the fold. Take one whip stitch in each of the 48 stitches of round 8: the needle goes not under its top loops but under two strands of its stem (the upright part below those loops), and then under two strands of the face right beside it. With a strand of C about 14 in (36 cm) long for each eye make two straight stitches side by side on each eye, from the top of round 1 to the top of round 2, up and to the right of the ring.

4. Beak: lay it with its right side up between the sewn rounds of the two eyes, with its point down and its foundation edge along row 14, from stitch 25 to stitch 31; its point comes to row 21. Its upper corners lie on top of the free shells of the eyes. With its tail whip stitch it down all round to the face, and where a shell lies under its edge go through the shell too: 7 chains, 7 row ends on each side and the point, 22 stitches.

5. Lay the front on the back with the wrong sides together, the foundation chain of the front at the last row of the back. Cut four lengths of A, about 50 in (127 cm) long each, one for each side. Top: whip stitch chain to stitch, 55 stitches. Each side: the back has 62 row ends. Sew them one to one to the 24 row ends of the face and to the 2 rows at the lower edge of the front, and in the feathers sew three row ends of the back to every two rows of the front: one to the end of each odd row, which begins and ends with sc, and two to the end of each even row, which is taller. That is 62 stitches: 24, 36 and 2. Leave the lower edge open.

6. Stuff the pillow with small, loose pieces of fiberfill, less in the two upper corners, about 5 in (13 cm) thick in the middle. Feet: the tail of each hangs at its toes. First thread it on the needle and run it along the wrong side of the foot, through the row ends of the side where it hangs, from row 5 to row 1, and bring it out on the wrong side at that end of row 1. Then lay the feet on the inside of the front at the lower edge, right side to the front, each with its foundation chain ¼ in (6 mm) above the edge, so that only row 1 is inside, and its toes hanging out: one at stitches 12 to 20 of the last row and one at stitches 36 to 44. Whip stitch the lower edge closed with the fourth length of A, last row of the front to foundation chain of the back, 55 stitches; where a foot lies, between the two edges, sew through its row 1 too. With the tail of each foot, which is already there, whip stitch once more over the same 9 stitches, through front, foot and back.

7. Ears: push the stuffing out of the two upper corners into the body. With a length of A about 40 in (102 cm) long for each corner, backstitch through front and back in a straight line across it, from the 13th stitch of the top seam, counted from the corner, to the 13th row end of the side seam: about 18 stitches, each about ¼ in (6 mm) long. Hide both ends of the length inside. The corner beyond the line is the ear.

8. Ear tassels: for each of the two, cut 10 strands of A and 10 strands of B, each about 8 in (20 cm) long, and 2 ties of A, each about 16 in (41 cm) long. Lay the 20 strands together and tie them round the middle with one tie. Fold them in half at the tie and wind the second tie round them 4 times, about ½ in (1.3 cm) below the fold; knot it and hide its ends inside. Sew the tassel to the point of the ear with the ends of the first tie, 3 stitches. Trim it to about 3 in (8 cm).

Finishing

- Weave in what is left of the sewing lengths: take each end once into the pillow and out again a few inches away, pull it a little and cut it, so that it slips back inside.

In all: 9 pieces; 7,541 stitches (2,750 in the front, 3,410 in the back, 288 in each eye, 31 in the beak, 316 in each wing, 71 in each foot).

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

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