Owl potholder

US terms



Finished size
About 8 in (20 cm) tall without the tufts and 7 in (18 cm) wide

Skill
Easy
Ovals in joined rounds, shell stitch, and pieces to sew on

Yarn
Medium (4), 6 colors

Hook
4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge
16 stitches and 18 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: teal, main	**about 100 yd (91 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: cream, stripe	**about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: sea glass, stripe	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: lagoon, stripe	**about 30 yd (27 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: mustard, eye, round 3, the beak and the foot	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: charcoal, eye, rounds 1 to 2	**about 4 yd (4 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, a tape measure and about 15 pins and 1 stitch marker.

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.

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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: insert hook in the place named, yo, pull through it and the loop on hook (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
hdc	half double crochet (UK htr, half treble)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 together: [insert hook in next st, yo, pull up a loop] 2 times, yo, pull through all 3 loops (UK dc2tog, double crochet 2 together)
sc3tog	single crochet 3 together: [insert hook in next st, yo, pull up a loop] 3 times, yo, pull through all 4 loops (UK dc3tog, double crochet 3 together)
Rnd	round
RS	right side
sk	skip (UK miss)
st	stitch
yo	yarn over (UK yrh, yarn round hook)

Gauge

16 stitches and 18 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

Check it on the back, laid flat, when 6 rounds are done: it measures about 3¾ in (9.5 cm) by 2¾ in (7 cm). If it measures more, start again with a smaller hook; if it measures less, with a larger one.

Before you start

- The ch 1 at the start of a row or a round does not count as a stitch.
- The right side of a piece in rounds is the side that faces you as you work; the right side of a piece in rows is the side that faces you in row 1.
- An oval and a leaf begin with a chain that is worked on both of its sides. When the last chain is worked, do not turn: go on round the end and work back along the other side of the chain, the first stitch into the same chain as the last one, and the last stitch into the chain where the round began.
- Where the words in square brackets of an oval are worked 2 times, each time is one half of the oval: from one end, along one long side, to the other end.
- To sew a piece on: lay it where the step says, right side up, and hold it with pins. With the yarn on a yarn needle, come up from below through both loops of a stitch of its edge and go down into the piece underneath, just outside that stitch. Work one sewing stitch for each stitch of the edge that is named. A chain of a foundation edge counts as a stitch, and so does the end of a row. Fasten off where it does not show.
- Use it dry: a wet potholder lets the heat through.
- To change yarn between rounds, make the joining sl st with the new yarn: put the hook in the first stitch, take the new yarn over the hook and pull it through. Cut the old yarn, leaving a tail of about 6 in (15 cm), and leave a tail of the same length on the new yarn.
- Leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) when you begin, when you join a yarn 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 in the middle of a round, work the last yarn over of a stitch with the next ball, and leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) on both.

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- Stitches in parentheses are all worked into the one place named after them. "3 sc in next st" puts all 3 stitches in that one 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.
- To join a yarn with a sl st, make a slip knot of it on the hook, put the hook in the place named, yo, and pull through the place and the loop on the hook.
- The ch 3 at the start of a row of the breast counts as a dc. The dc that follows goes into the stitch from which the ch 3 rises, the last stitch of the row before.
- Cut each yarn at the end of its row of the breast, and leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) on the old yarn and on the new one. To change yarn for rows 2 to 7, work the last yarn over of the row before with the new yarn.
- Rows 8, 9 and 10 of the breast are shorter at both ends. Fasten off the yarn of the row before, turn, pass over the first 2 stitches and join the new yarn in the third one, which is the middle of a shell. Each of these rows ends in the middle of the last shell: the 2 stitches after it are left.
- Use cotton yarn. Acrylic yarn can melt.

Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. Round brackets ( ) inside a line hold stitches that all go into one place. 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, dc is treble, sc2tog is double crochet 2 together, sc3tog is double crochet 3 together, sk is miss and yo is yarn round hook.

Back

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 6.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across, working along the other side of the chain, sc in each ch across; join with sl st in first sc	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, **[**3 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in each of next 2 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(22 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(28 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(34 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(40 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(46 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(52 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(58 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 16 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(64 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(70 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 19 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(76 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 12 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(82 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 22 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(88 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 15 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(94 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

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Front

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 6.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across, working along the other side of the chain, sc in each ch across; join with sl st in first sc	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, **[**3 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in each of next 2 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(22 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(28 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(34 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(40 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(46 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(52 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(58 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 16 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(64 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(70 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 12**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 19 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(76 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 12 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(82 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 22 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(88 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 15 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(94 sc)**

Stop here for a moment: weave in the ends of the back and of the front. Lay the back behind the front, wrong sides together, the joins of the two one behind the other. In the next round put the hook through both layers for every stitch, through the next st of the front and the st of the back that lies behind it

☐ **Rnd 16**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 25 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(100 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Breast

Yarns in order of use: B, cream; C, sea glass; D, lagoon.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 18.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, **[**sk next ch, 3 dc in next ch, sk next ch, sc in next ch**] 4 times**	**(5 sc, 12 dc)**
☐ **Row 2**	With C, ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st, 3 dc in next st**] 3 times**, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st, 2 dc in last st	**(13 dc, 4 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	With D, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next st, 3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**, sk next st, 3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in top of turning ch	**(5 sc, 12 dc)**
☐ **Row 4**	With B, ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st, 3 dc in next st**] 3 times**, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st, 2 dc in last st	**(13 dc, 4 sc)**
☐ **Row 5**	With C, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next st, 3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**, sk next st, 3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in top of turning ch	**(5 sc, 12 dc)**

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☐ **Row 6**	With D, ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st, 3 dc in next st**] 3 times**, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st, 2 dc in last st	**(13 dc, 4 sc)**
☐ **Row 7**	With B, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next st, 3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**, sk next st, 3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in top of turning ch	**(5 sc, 12 dc)**
☐ **Row 8**	Turn; sk next 2 sts, join C with sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in same st, **[**sk next st, 3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**, leave remaining 2 sts unworked	**(4 sc, 9 dc)**
☐ **Row 9**	Turn; sk next 2 sts, join D with sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in same st, **[**sk next st, 3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**, leave remaining 2 sts unworked	**(3 sc, 6 dc)**
☐ **Row 10**	Turn; sk next 2 sts, join B with sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in same st, sk next st, 3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st, leave remaining 2 sts unworked	**(2 sc, 3 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Eye: make 2

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

☐ **Foundation**	With F, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1, 6 sc in 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**	With E, 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**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(36 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 38 in (97 cm) for sewing.	

Beak

Yarn E, mustard.

☐ **Foundation**	With E, ch 6.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next st, sc2tog	**(1 sc, 2 sc2tog)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; sc3tog	**(1 sc3tog)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 22 in (56 cm) for sewing.	

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Wing: make 2

Yarn D, lagoon.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 10.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across, working along the other side of the chain, sc in each ch across; join with sl st in first sc	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, **[**3 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, sc in next st, 2 sc in each of next 2 sts, hdc in next 4 sts, sc in next 5 sts, (hdc, dc, hdc) in next st, sc in next 5 sts, hdc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in each of next 2 sts; join with sl st in first sc	**(19 sc, 10 hdc, 1 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 34 in (86 cm) for sewing.	

Foot: make 2

Yarn E, mustard.

☐ **Foundation**	With E, ch 5.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across, working along the other side of the chain, sc in each ch across; join with sl st in first sc	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, **[**3 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(14 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 22 in (56 cm) for sewing.	

Tuft: make 4

Yarn D, lagoon.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 10.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next ch, dc in next 5 chs, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch, working along the other side of the chain, sc in next ch, hdc in next ch, dc in next 5 chs, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch; join with sl st in first sc	**(4 sc, 4 hdc, 10 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 22 in (56 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Weave in all the ends but the tails to sew with. In steps 3 to 6 take up only the front layer when you sew, so that the back stays clean.

2. Lay the potholder with the front up and its long way upright, the join of its rounds at the bottom. The line of the foundation chain is the upright middle line, and the middle of that chain is the middle of the owl.

3. Breast: its foundation chain is the top, and the shells hang down. Lay it right side up with the foundation chain level, ½ in (1.5 cm) above the middle of the owl, and the middle of the chain on the upright middle line. Cut a length of B about 54 in (137 cm) and sew it down all round, without drawing the cloth in: 17 stitches along the foundation chain; 16 down one side, one in each of the 10 row ends and one in each of the 6 stitches that were passed over or left at the ends of rows 7, 8 and 9 on that side; 5 along the last row; and 16 up the other side: 54 stitches.

4. Eyes: lay the two eyes side by side so that they touch on the upright middle line, their middles 1½ in (4 cm) above the middle of the owl and their lower edges on the breast. With its tail sew each one down all round: 36 stitches. Glint: for each eye cut a length of B about 10 in (25 cm) and work two small straight stitches side by side into the upper left part of the charcoal.

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5. Beak: its foundation chain is the top. Lay it over the place where the eyes meet, point down, the foundation chain level and ¼ in (0.5 cm) below the middles of the eyes, and sew it down all round with its tail: 5 stitches along the chain, 4 up each side and 1 at the point, 14 in all.

6. Wings: the end where its rounds are joined is the upper end, and the end with the dc is the tip. Lay one on each side, right side up: the middle of its upper end is 2¾ in (7 cm) from the upright middle line and ¼ in (0.5 cm) higher than the middle of the owl; its tip is 2 in (5 cm) from the upright middle line and 3¼ in (8.5 cm) lower than the middle of the owl. The whole wing lies on the owl, and its inner edge lies over the side of the breast. With its tail sew it down all round: 30 stitches.

7. Feet: turn the owl over. The lower edge is the edge of round 16. Lay the feet on the back, right side down, one on each side of the upright middle line: the long way of each foot follows the lower edge, half of its width lies on the owl and half stands past the edge, and the inner ends of the two are ½ in (1.5 cm) apart. With its tail sew the half of its edge that lies on the owl to the back layer, 7 of its 14 stitches. Then go back along the edge of round 16, sewing it to the foot: 6 stitches.

8. Tufts: put a marker in the stitch of round 16 at the very top, on the upright middle line. The base of a tuft is the end where its round was joined. Each side of the owl has two tufts. With the owl still turned over, lay each on the back, right side down, its middle line pointing straight away from the middle of the owl: the first crosses the edge of round 16 at the 9th stitch from the marker and the second at the 11th, the same on the other side. Where they touch, the second lies over the edge of the first. The tip stands 1¼ in (3 cm) past the edge, and the base lies on the back. With its tail sew the part of its edge that lies on the owl to the back layer, about 9 stitches, and go back along the edge of round 16, sewing it to the tuft: 4 stitches.

9. Hanging loop: join A with a sl st in the stitch with the marker, ch 18, sl st in the same stitch, and fasten off. Weave in the ends. Take out the marker.

Finishing

- Weave in what is left of the sewing lengths between the two layers.

In all: 14 pieces; 2,332 stitches (780 in the back, 880 in the front, 146 in the breast, 126 in each eye, 14 in the beak, 72 in each wing, 22 in each foot, 18 in each tuft).

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

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