Owl towel holder

US terms



Finished size

Owl about 5¼ in (13 cm) wide without the wings and 7 in (18 cm) tall with the ears; strap about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) wide and 5¾ in (15 cm) long; for a rail up to 1¼ in (3 cm) thick

Skill

Easy

Single crochet with simple shaping, and pieces to sew

Yarn

Medium (4), 4 colors

Hook

4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge

16 stitches and 18 rows to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: camel, main	**about 75 yd (69 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: cream, the eye and the belly	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: mustard, the beak and the foot	**about 8 yd (7 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: chocolate, the wing and the ear	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a wooden ring, 3½ in (9 cm) across on the outside and about 3/8 in (1 cm) thick, a flat button, ¾ in (2 cm) across and sewing thread and a sewing needle for the button, a yarn needle, scissors, a tape measure and pins.

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.

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

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sk	skip (UK miss)
sp	space
st	stitch
yo	yarn over (UK yrh, yarn round hook)

Gauge

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

Begin with the strap and check it there, laid flat, when 18 rows are done: the 7 stitches of a row are about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) wide and the 18 rows are about 4 in (10 cm) tall. If they measure more, start again with a smaller hook; if they measure less, with a larger one. Rounds 1 to 4 of an eye are about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) across.

Before you start

- The ch 1 at the start of a row or a round does not count as a stitch.
- 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.
- Whip stitch: with the yarn on a yarn needle, pass the needle under both loops of a stitch on one edge and under both loops of the stitch that lies against it on the other edge, and pull the yarn through. Do the same in the next stitch of each edge. On a foundation chain edge, pass the needle under the lower strands of each chain that holds a stitch of row 1. On a side edge there are no loops: pass the needle through the end stitch of the row on one side and the end stitch of the row that lies against it on the other. Fasten a length where the sewing begins and where it ends: sew 2 or 3 times into the same place.
- Stitches in parentheses are all worked into the one place named after them. "2 sc in next st" puts both 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.
- The right side of a round is the side that faces you as you work 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.
- Backstitch: bring the needle up one stitch ahead of where the line ends, put it down where the line ends, and bring it up again one stitch farther on. A straight stitch is one stitch from one place to another.
- Use cotton yarn: it stands up to washing.

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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 row 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 and sk is miss.

Body: make 2

Yarn A, camel.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 12.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in last st	**(13 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 11 sts, 2 sc in last st	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in last st	**(17 sc)**
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 15 sts, 2 sc in last st	**(19 sc)**
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(19 sc)**
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 17 sts, 2 sc in last st	**(21 sc)**
☐ **Rows 8 to 22**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(21 sc)**

A box for each row, 8 to 22: tick them off as you go.

☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22

☐ **Row 23**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 17 sts, sc2tog	**(17 sc, 2 sc2tog)**
☐ **Row 24**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(19 sc)**
☐ **Row 25**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 15 sts, sc2tog	**(15 sc, 2 sc2tog)**
☐ **Row 26**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 13 sts, sc2tog	**(13 sc, 2 sc2tog)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Eye: make 2

Yarn B, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, 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**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	**(24 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 22 in (56 cm) to sew with.	

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Belly

Yarn B, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 8.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in last st	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in last st	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Rows 4 to 9**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(11 sc)**

A box for each row, 4 to 9: tick them off as you go.

☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9

☐ **Row 10**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts, sc2tog	**(7 sc, 2 sc2tog)**
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog	**(5 sc, 2 sc2tog)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 34 in (86 cm) to sew with.	

Beak

Yarn C, mustard.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 4.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(3 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(3 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; sc3tog	**(1 sc3tog)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 14 in (36 cm) to sew with.	

Wing: make 2

Yarn D, chocolate.

Row 1 is worked along both sides of the chain. The sc after the ch 2 goes into the same chain as the sc before the ch 2, on its other side. The last sc goes into the chain that holds the first sc. The end of the wing where the row begins and ends is its top, and the ch-2 space is its tip.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 13.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next ch, dc in next 5 chs, hdc in next 2 chs, sc in next 3 chs, ch 2, working along the other side of the chain, sc in next 3 chs, hdc in next 2 chs, dc in next 5 chs, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch	**(8 sc, 6 hdc, 10 dc, 1 ch-2 sp)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 12 sts, (sc, ch 2, sc) in next ch-2 sp, sc in next 12 sts	**(26 sc, 1 ch-2 sp)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 20 in (51 cm) for sewing it on.	

Ear: make 2

Yarn D, chocolate.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 2.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook	**(1 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st	**(2 sc)**

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☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in last st	**(3 sc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 2 sts	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 3 sts	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in first st, sc in next 4 sts	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 20 in (51 cm) to sew with.	

Foot: make 2

Yarn C, mustard.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 4.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(3 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 12**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(3 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 12: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 18 in (46 cm) to sew with.	

Strap

Yarn A, camel.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 8.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 22**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(7 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 22: tick them off as you go.

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

☐ **Row 23**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 2 sts, ch 3, sk next 3 sts, sc in next 2 sts	**(4 sc, 1 ch-3 sp)**
☐ **Row 24**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 2 sts, 3 sc in next ch-3 sp, sc in next 2 sts	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 25**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 26**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog	**(3 sc, 2 sc2tog)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Assembly

1. Weave in all the ends but the tails to sew with. One body is the front, and the other the back. Row 1 is a right side row, and the last row is the top of the head. Stitches are counted from the right edge, with the right side up.

2. Belly: lay it on the front, right side up, its foundation chain along the top of row 3, so that its 7 chains lie below stitches 6 to 12 of the 17 stitches of row 4, and its last row at the top. With its tail, sew it down all round, one small stitch in each stitch and each row end: 36 stitches.

3. Eyes: lay them on the front, right side up. The middle of one lies on row 18 between stitches 7 and 8, and the middle of the other on row 18 between stitches 14 and 15. They meet over the middle of stitch 11, and their lower edges lie over the last row of the belly. With its tail, sew each one down by the 24 stitches of its last round.

4. Closed lids: cut a length of D about 24 in (61 cm), and use half of it for each eye. Round 2 of the eye has 12 stitches, and 6 of them, side by side, lie below its middle. Work 6 backstitches along the outer edge of these 6, one to each stitch,

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from one side to the other: a half circle, open at the top, its two ends level with the middle of the eye. Then work 3 straight stitches for the lashes, each about ¼ in (6 mm) long, outward and down over round 3 to its outer edge: one from where the second and third backstitches meet, one from where the third and fourth meet (the lowest point of the line) and one from where the fourth and fifth meet.

5. Beak: lay it right side up, point down, just below the place where the eyes meet: its foundation chain along the top of row 17, over stitches 10 to 12, and its point on row 15. It lies between the two lids and covers no part of a lid or a lash. With its tail, sew it down all round: 3 stitches along the chain, 3 along each side and 1 at the point, 10 stitches.

6. Feathers: cut a length of D about 26 in (66 cm). On the belly work 5 marks in the shape of a V, each of two straight stitches that meet at the lower end. A V is one row tall and 3 stitches wide: it goes from the top of the first of its stitches down to the bottom of the second and up to the top of the third. Work 3 on row 7 of the belly, over stitches 1 to 3, 5 to 7 and 9 to 11, and 2 on row 4, over stitches 3 to 5 and 7 to 9.

7. Ears: lay each ear behind the top of the front, point up, right side to the front, its last row against the wrong side of row 26, one behind stitches 1 to 6 and one behind stitches 10 to 15. With its tail, sew the 6 stitches of its last row down.

8. Strap: lay its foundation chain against the wrong side of the front, level with the top of row 25, behind stitches 6 to 12 of the 17 of row 25, the strap standing up above the head, right side to the front. It lies behind the inner 2 stitches of each ear. Cut a length of A about 20 in (51 cm) and sew the 7 chains down, twice over.

9. Feet: pass each foot through the wooden ring and fold it in half, right side out, so that its foundation chain and its last row meet and the ring lies in the fold. With its tail, sew these two edges together, 3 stitches. Lay the sewn end of one foot against the wrong side of the front, reaching up to the top of row 2, behind stitches 3 to 5 of the 11 of row 1, and the sewn end of the second foot in the same way, behind stitches 7 to 9. With what is left of its tail, sew each down, 3 stitches.

10. Toes: cut a length of D about 12 in (30 cm), and use half of it for each foot. On the front of each foot work 2 straight stitches from the lower edge of the body down to the fold, one between its first and second stitches and one between its second and third.

11. Lay the back behind the front, wrong sides together, the ends of the ears, the strap and the feet between them. Cut a length of A about 60 in (152 cm). Whip stitch the two together all round, stitch to stitch along the last rows (15) and the foundation chains (11), and row end to row end at the two sides (26 each): 78 stitches. Where the strap, an ear or a foot lies between, sew through it too.

12. Wings: lay one on each side of the front, right side up (row 1 is a right side row), its top level with the top of row 19 and its tip straight down. The line of its foundation chain lies over the stitch at the side edge: stitch 1 of the rows at one side, stitch 21 at the other. With its tail, sew each wing down along this line, from the top down, 8 small stitches, one beside each of the first 8 chains: they end on row 11. The edges and the tip of the wing hang free.

13. Button: with the sewing needle and sewing thread, sew it to the back between rows 22 and 23, below the tenth of the 19 stitches of row 23. To hang the owl, pass the strap over the rail from the front to the back and button it behind the head. Pull one end of a towel through the ring, so that half of it hangs on each side.

Finishing

- Weave in what is left of the sewing lengths with the yarn needle.

In all: 13 pieces; 1,639 stitches (500 in each body, 60 in each eye, 109 in the belly, 7 in the beak, 50 in each wing, 27 in each ear, 36 in each foot, 177 in the strap).

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