Smiling cactus in a pot

US terms



Finished size
About 5 in (12.5 cm) tall

Skill
Intermediate
Ten pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Medium (4), 7 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.

You will need

Yarn A: sage green, the cactus and its arms	**about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: terracotta, the pot	**about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: cream, the spines	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: black, the mouth	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: pink, the petals and the cheeks	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: cocoa, the soil	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn G: yellow, the center of the flower	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**

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

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. 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.

sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together (UK dc2tog, double crochet 2 stitches together)
MR	magic ring
RS	right side

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Gauge

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

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

Before you start

- Every piece 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.
- 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.
- Color change: where a line begins "With F," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in F. 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.
- Cactus: the center line runs between stitches 18 and 19 of round 6 (36 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the top.
- Pot: the center line runs between stitches 21 and 22 of round 11 (42 sts). It faces the front.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the toy. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- 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.
- Eyes: for a child under three, or a pet, embroider the eyes instead of plastic ones: satin stitch dots of the same size in D (black).
- 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: for another size multiply them by the number in its line.
- Small: fine (2, sport) yarn, 2.25 mm (B-1) hook, 27 sc and 30 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 3¾ in (9.5 cm) tall; eyes 7 mm; multiply lengths by 0.74; about 0.74 times the yarn.
- Large: bulky (5, chunky) yarn, 5 mm (H-8) hook, 14 sc and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 7¼ in (18.5 cm) tall; eyes 14 mm; multiply lengths by 1.4; about 1.4 times the yarn.
- Jumbo: super bulky (6, plush or velvet) yarn, 6.5 mm (K-10½) hook, 11 sc and 12.1 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 9 in (23 cm) tall; eyes 18 mm; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.
- Every size is approximate and follows from your gauge and how firmly you stuff.

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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 double crochet 2 stitches together.

Pot

Yarns in order of use: B, terracotta; F, cocoa.

Round 1 is the middle of the base.

☐ **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**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in BLO of each st around	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in each st around	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 9 to 10**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**

A box for each round, 9 to 10: tick them off as you go.

☐ 9 ☐ 10

☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 12 to 15**	Sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**

A box for each round, 12 to 15: tick them off as you go.

☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15

☐ **Rnd 16**	With F, sc in BLO of each st around	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

Stuff firmly now, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside.	

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Cactus

Yarn A, sage green.

☐ **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**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 7 to 20**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**

A box for each round, 7 to 20: tick them off as you go.

☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 28 in (71 cm) tail for sewing. Fix the eyes now (see Finishing). Do this before you stuff the piece or sew it on. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

Arm: make 2

Yarn A, sage green.

☐ **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**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 7**	Sc in each st around	**(15 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 7: tick them off as you go.

☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7

☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

Petal: make 5

Yarn E, pink.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**, 2 sc in next st	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in each st around	**(8 sc)**

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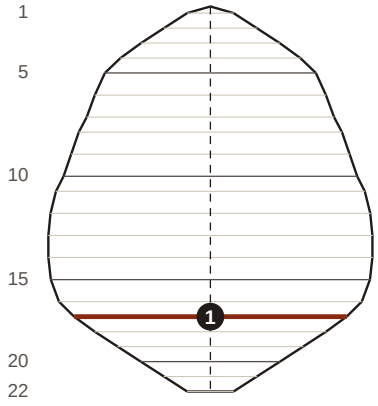
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 3 stitches.	

Flower center

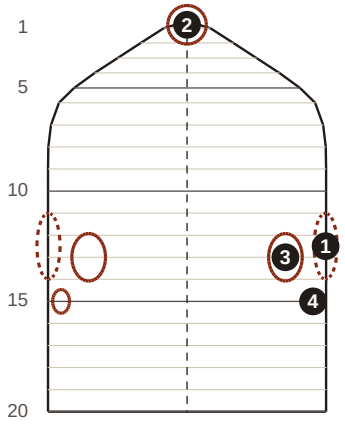
Yarn G, yellow.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

Assembly



Pot: 1 cactus



Cactus: 1 arms, 2 flower center, 3 eyes, 4 cheeks

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. In every step: 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. Set the cactus on the pot with the center lines in line: its open edge (36 sts) lies on round 17 of the pot (36 sts). Sew it down all the way round, topping up the stuffing before the last stitches.

2. Pin the two arms to the cactus: the middle of each open edge lies between rounds 12 and 13, one to each side, 9½ stitches from the center line (17 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). The edge (12 sts) covers about rounds 11 to 14 of the cactus. They point out to the side, then curve up. Bend each as you pin it and hold the curve with a few running stitches along its inner side, drawn up a little. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

3. Sew the five petals in a ring round the top of the cactus, on round 3 (18 sts), pointing up and out: the middle of the first on the center line and the middle of each of the others 3½ stitches from the one before (about 4 stitches from the last back to the first). Sew each by both layers of its 3-stitch flat edge.

4. Pin the flower center to the cactus: the middle of the open edge lies over the middle of round 1 of the cactus. The edge (6 sts) lies all the way round on about round 1. It points up. Sew all the way round with the tail.

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Finishing

- Put in the plastic eyes when the words of a piece say so. Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle when the pieces round the place are sewn on; begin and end each strand inside the toy. Satin stitch is straight stitches side by side until the shape is filled.
- Eyes: two 10 mm black plastic eyes, on the cactus on round 13, one to each side, 4½ stitches from the center line (9 stitches apart).
- Cheeks: with E (pink), in satin stitch, an oval about ¼ in (6 mm) wide and 3/16 in (5 mm) tall, its middle on the cactus on round 15, one to each side, 6½ stitches from the center line (13 stitches apart).
- Mouth: with D (black), in backstitch, a smile, one curve about 3/8 in (10 mm) wide that dips 1/8 in (3 mm) below its ends, the point above the curve, half way between its ends, on the cactus between rounds 14 and 15, on the center line.
- Spines: with C (cream), scatter 14 small V shapes of two straight stitches evenly over the front, the sides and the back of the cactus, but not on the face or the arms, each one stitch wide and one round tall.
- Weave every tail through the toy and trim it. For a toy that will be played with, go round each seam a second time with a new length of yarn. Check the seams and small parts from time to time.

In all: 10 pieces; 1,647 stitches (636 in the pot, 630 in the cactus, 117 in each arm, 27 in each petal, 12 in the flower center); 20 ends to weave in.

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

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