Pumpkin towel topper

US terms



Finished size
Pumpkin about 9 in (23 cm) wide and 5½ in (14 cm) tall; stem about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) wide and 5¼ in (13 cm) long before it is folded; for a rail up to 1¼ in (3 cm) thick

Skill
Intermediate
Post stitches, shaping, and a row through a towel

Yarn
Medium (4), 2 colors

Hook
4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge
16 stitches and 9½ rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In double crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: pumpkin, main	**about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: fern, pumpkin, rows 14 to 37, the leaf and the tendril	**about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a kitchen towel about 16 in (40 cm) wide (half of it makes one topper), a button, ¾ in (2 cm) across and sewing thread and a sewing needle, an awl or a thick yarn needle to punch the holes, pins, a pencil, a yarn needle, scissors and a tape measure.

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)
tr	treble crochet (UK dtr, double treble)
FPdc	front post double crochet: yo, insert hook from the front, behind the post of the st named and out to the front again, yo,
BPdc	back post double crochet: the same, with the hook put in from the back, in front of the post and out to the back again
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, dc
dc2tog	double crochet 2 together: [yo, insert hook in next st, yo, pull up a loop, yo, pull through 2 loops] 2 times, yo, pull throug
dc3tog	double crochet 3 together: [yo, insert hook in next st, yo, pull up a loop, yo, pull through 2 loops] 3 times, yo, pull throug
RS	right side
sk	skip (UK miss)
sp	space

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st	stitch
yo	yarn over (UK yrh, yarn round hook)

Gauge

16 stitches and 9½ rows to 4 in (10 cm) in double crochet.

Check it on the pumpkin itself, laid flat, when row 9 is done: the 36 stitches of row 9 are about 9 in (23 cm) wide and the 9 rows are about 3¾ in (9.5 cm) tall. If they measure more, start again with a smaller hook; if they measure 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 ch 2 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.
- The pumpkin is worked from its lower edge, where the towel hangs, up to the stem. The 2 chains skipped at the start of row 1 do not count as a stitch.
- Ribs: the 6 BPdc of row 2 are worked round 6 dc of row 1. From row 3 to row 12, each FPdc or BPdc is worked round the post stitch that stands in its place in the row below. They make six raised ribs on the right side.
- To change yarn, work the last yarn over of the last stitch of the row before with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn at the end of its stripe, 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.
- 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.
- Use cotton yarn: it stands up to washing.

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 row is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, hdc is half treble, dc is treble, tr is double treble, FPdc is front post treble, or raised treble front, BPdc is back post treble, or raised treble back, sc2tog is double crochet 2 together, dc2tog is treble 2 together, dc3tog is treble 3 together, sk is miss and yo is yarn round hook.

Pumpkin

Yarns in order of use: A, pumpkin; B, fern.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 31.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Dc in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(29 dc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc in next 3 sts, BPdc around next st**] 6 times**, dc in next 3 sts, dc in last st	**(23 dc, 6 BPdc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, FPdc around next st**] 6 times**, 2 dc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, dc in last st	**(30 dc, 6 FPdc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc in next 4 sts, BPdc around next st**] 6 times**, dc in next 4 sts, dc in last st	**(30 dc, 6 BPdc)**
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc in next 4 sts, FPdc around next st**] 6 times**, dc in next 4 sts, dc in last st	**(30 dc, 6 FPdc)**
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc in next 4 sts, BPdc around next st**] 6 times**, dc in next 4 sts, dc in last st	**(30 dc, 6 BPdc)**

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☐ **Row 7**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc in next 4 sts, FPdc around next st**] 6 times**, dc in next 4 sts, dc in last st	**(30 dc, 6 FPdc)**
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc in next 4 sts, BPdc around next st**] 6 times**, dc in next 4 sts, dc in last st	**(30 dc, 6 BPdc)**
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc in next 4 sts, FPdc around next st**] 6 times**, dc in next 4 sts, dc in last st	**(30 dc, 6 FPdc)**
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc2tog, dc in next 2 sts, BPdc around next st**] 6 times**, dc2tog, dc in next 2 sts, dc in last st	**(16 dc, 7 dc2tog, 6 BPdc)**
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc2tog, dc in next st, FPdc around next st**] 6 times**, dc2tog, dc in next st, dc in last st	**(9 dc, 7 dc2tog, 6 FPdc)**
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc2tog, BPdc around next st**] 6 times**, dc2tog, dc in last st	**(2 dc, 7 dc2tog, 6 BPdc)**
☐ **Row 13**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc2tog**] 3 times**, dc3tog, **[**dc2tog**] 3 times**	**(6 dc2tog, 1 dc3tog)**
☐ **Row 14**	With B, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Rows 15 to 33**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(7 sc)**

A box for each row, 15 to 33: tick them off as you go.

☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐ 24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26 ☐ 27 ☐ 28 ☐ 29 ☐ 30 ☐ 31 ☐ 32 ☐ 33

☐ **Row 34**	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 35**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 2 sts, 3 sc in next ch-3 sp, sc in next 2 sts	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 36**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 37**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog	**(3 sc, 2 sc2tog)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Towel edge

Yarn A, pumpkin.

Before you begin, hem and punch the towel and pin it to the pumpkin: steps 1 to 3 of Assembly. Then work this row, and go on with step 4. Each sc of this row goes through a chain of the pumpkin and through the hole of the towel behind it, both together.

☐ **Foundation**	Work along the foundation chain of the pumpkin, right side facing: 29 chs.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Join A with sl st in first ch, ch 1, sc in each ch across	**(29 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Leaf: make 2

Yarn B, fern.

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.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 11.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next ch, dc in next 2 chs, tr in next 2 chs, dc in next 2 chs, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch, ch 2, working along the other side of the chain, sc in next ch, hdc in next ch, dc in next 2 chs, tr in next 2 chs, dc in next 2 chs, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch	**(4 sc, 4 hdc, 8 dc, 4 tr, 1 ch-2 sp)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 24 in (61 cm) to sew with.	

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Tendril

Yarn B, fern.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 31.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	2 sc in 2nd ch from hook, 2 sc in each of next 29 chs	**(60 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 10 in (25 cm) for sewing it on.	

Assembly

1. Towel: fold the towel in half so that its two short ends meet, and cut it along the fold. Lay one half with its wrong side up and the cut edge at the top. Fold the cut edge down ½ in (12 mm), and ½ in (12 mm) once more, press it, and sew it by hand or machine close to its lower fold. The towel now has a hem of three layers.

2. Holes: measure the hem from side to side and take off 1 in (2.5 cm). Divide what is left by 28: this is the distance from hole to hole. (A hem of 16 in (40 cm) gives a little more than ½ in, about 13 mm.) Mark the first hole ½ in (12 mm) in from one side and the next ones at that distance, 29 marks in all, all of them ¼ in (6 mm) below the top fold of the hem. Punch a hole at each mark with the awl, wide enough for the hook.

3. Weave in the ends of the pumpkin. Hold the towel and the pumpkin with their wrong sides together, the pumpkin in front with its right side toward you (row 1 is a right side row), its foundation chain at the top and level with the top fold of the hem. The pumpkin hangs down in front of the towel, stem down. Pin the first chain at the right to the first hole at the right, the last chain to the last hole, and the fifteenth of the 29 chains to the fifteenth hole. The towel is wider than the pumpkin: it makes a small gather between every two holes.

4. Work row 1 of the towel edge now, if it is not done: put the hook from the front to the back through each chain and then through the hole behind it. The sc close over the foundation chain and the fold of the hem together. Weave in its ends. Open the two out: the pumpkin stands above the towel, and the row of sc is a ridge between them on the right side.

5. Leaves: the sc at the beginning of the row is the foot of the leaf, and the ch-2 space is its tip. Lay the two leaves on the right side of the pumpkin, right side up, with their feet on row 13, at the first and the last of its 7 stitches, the tip of each on the end of row 11 on its own side. With its tail, sew each one down along the line of its foundation chain, from the foot outward, 6 stitches.

6. Tendril: twist it with your fingers until it curls like a corkscrew. With the right side of the pumpkin up and its stem at the top, lay the last end of the tendril, the end with the tail, on row 11, over the seventh stitch from the edge at your right. This place is on the pumpkin itself, a little below the leaf at your right: no part of the tendril goes beneath the leaf. With its tail, sew this end down, 3 stitches. The tendril hangs free from there.

7. Button: with sewing thread, sew it to the right side of row 14, the first row of the stem, over the fourth of its 7 stitches.

8. To hang it, pass the end of the stem up behind the rail, over it and down in front, and button it between the leaves.

Finishing

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

In all: 4 pieces; 675 stitches (546 in the pumpkin, 29 in the towel edge, 20 in each leaf, 60 in the tendril).

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