Red ladybug

US terms



Finished size
About 3½ in (8.9 cm) tall

Skill
Intermediate
17 pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Medium (4), 4 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: cherry red, shell	**about 45 yd (41 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: black, 5 of the pieces	**about 75 yd (69 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: white, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: rose, the details	**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
MR	magic ring
RS	right side

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.

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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 B," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in B. 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.
- Shell: the center line runs between stitches 27 and 28 of round 9 (54 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the top.
- Head: the center line runs through the middle of stitch 17 of round 6 (33 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top.
- 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.
- For a child under three, or a pet, embroider the eyes instead: satin stitch dots of the same size in B (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 2 5/8 in (6.7 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 5 in (12.5 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 6¼ in (16 cm) tall; eyes 18 mm; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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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.

Shell

Yarns in order of use: A, cherry red; B, black.

☐ **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)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 10 to 15**	Sc in each st around	**(54 sc)**

A box for each round, 10 to 15: tick them off as you go.

☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15

☐ **Rnd 16**	With B, working in BLO all the way round, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts**] 6 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

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

☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**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.	

Head

Yarn B, black.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**

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☐ **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 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 3 times**	**(33 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 7 to 10**	Sc in each st around	**(33 sc)**

A box for each round, 7 to 10: tick them off as you go.

☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10

☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 9 sts**] 3 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in each st around	**(24 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 22 in (56 cm) tail for sewing. Fix the eyes now (see Face and details). Do this before you stuff the piece or sew it on. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

Spot: make 7

Yarn B, black.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat with the right side up.	

Antenna: make 2

Yarn B, black.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 5 to 7**	Sc in each st around	**(4 sc)**

A box for each round, 5 to 7: tick them off as you go.

☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

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Leg: make 6

Yarn B, black.

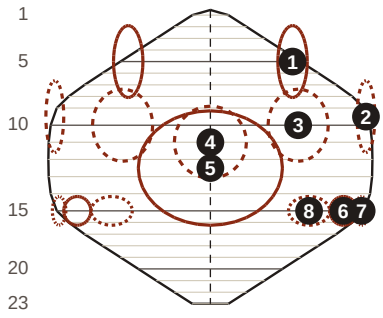
☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 3 to 4**	Sc in each st around	**(9 sc)**

A box for each round, 3 to 4: tick them off as you go.

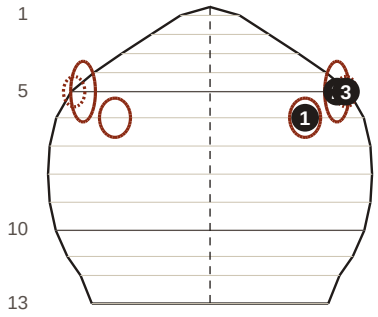
3 4

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff lightly up to the open edge.	

Assembly



Shell: 1 spots, 2 spots, 3 spots, 4 spot, 5 head, 6 legs, 7 legs, 8 legs



Head: 1 antennae, 2 eyes, 3 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. Lay two spots flat on the shell, right side out, the middle of each on round 5, one to each side, 5½ stitches from the center line (11 stitches apart). Sew down all 12 stitches of the edge.

2. Lay two spots flat on the shell, right side out, the middle of each between rounds 9 and 10, one to each side, 14½ stitches from the center line (25 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). Sew down all 12 stitches of the edge.

3. Lay two spots flat on the shell, right side out, the middle of each on round 10, one to each side, 22 stitches from the center line (10 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). Sew down all 12 stitches of the edge.

4. Lay one spot flat on the shell, right side out, the middle of it on round 11, on the line opposite the center line. Sew down all 12 stitches of the edge.

5. Pin the head to the shell: the middle of the open edge lies between rounds 12 and 13, on the center line. The edge (24 sts) covers about rounds 9 to 16 of the shell. It points forward and up. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

6. Pin the two antennae to the head: the middle of each open edge lies on round 6, one to each side, 3½ stitches from the center line (7 stitches apart). The edge has 4 sts. They point up, then curve until the tip of each points up and out to the side. Bend each as you pin it and hold the curve with a stitch or two on its inner side. Sew all the way round with the tail.

7. Pin two legs to the shell: the middle of each open edge lies on round 15, one to each side, 9 stitches from the center line (18 stitches apart). The edge (9 sts) covers about rounds 14 to 16 of the shell. They point out to the side and forward. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

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8. Pin two legs to the shell: the middle of each open edge lies on round 15, one to each side, 15 stitches from the center line (24 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). The edge (9 sts) covers about rounds 14 to 16 of the shell. They point out to the side. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

9. Pin two legs to the shell: the middle of each open edge lies on round 15, one to each side, 21 stitches from the center line (12 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). The edge (9 sts) covers about rounds 14 to 16 of the shell. They point back and out to the side. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

Finishing

- Put in the plastic eyes when the words of a piece say so, or embroider eyes in the same places with the other details. Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle when the pieces round the place are sewn on, unless a line gives another time; begin and end each strand inside the toy. Satin stitch is straight stitches side by side until the shape is filled. Backstitch is a line of short stitches end to end: bring the needle up one stitch ahead, put it down at the end of the stitch before, and repeat.
- Wing line: with B (black), in backstitch, one line from round 3 of the shell down to round 14, along the line opposite the center line. Work it before the single spot is sewn on over it.
- Eyes: two 10 mm black plastic eyes, on the head on round 5, one to each side, 5½ stitches from the center line (11 stitches apart). Round each eye, work a ring of small straight stitches in C (white).
- Cheeks: with D (rose), in satin stitch, an oval about ¼ in (6 mm) wide and 3/16 in (5 mm) tall, its middle on the head on round 5, one to each side, 8½ stitches from the center line (13 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line).
- Mouth: with C (white), in backstitch, a smile, one curve about 3/8 in (10 mm) wide that dips 1/8 in (3 mm) below its ends. Its two ends are on the head on round 2, one to each side of the line opposite the center line.
- 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: 17 pieces; 1,533 stitches (810 in the shell, 333 in the head, 18 in each spot, 33 in each antenna, 33 in each leg); 34 ends to weave in.

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

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