Saguaro cactus in a pot

US terms



Finished size
About 9¼ in (23.5 cm) tall with the blooms and 5½ in (14 cm) across the arms; the pot 3½ in (8.9 cm) across at the rim

Skill
Easy
Nine pieces worked in rounds and rows and sewn together.

Yarn
Medium (4), 6 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: cactus green, trunk, arm and the details	**about 110 yd (101 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: terracotta, pot	**about 50 yd (46 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: white, the details	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: yellow, bloom	**about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: cream, bloom	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: cocoa, pot	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins and scissors.

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 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, through the front loops only (the back loops in a BLO row or round): how is under “B
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
ch	chain stitch
MR	magic ring
RS	right side
Rnd	round
st	stitch
BLO	back loop only

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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, for the pot; 20 sc and 22 rows = 4 in (10 cm), worked flat in BLO rows, lying flat and not stretched, for the cactus. The stitches should be tight enough that the stuffing does not show.

Use any hook that gives you this. If you count more stitches than this in 4 in (10 cm), change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, to a smaller one.

Before you start

- Every piece that has rounds 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.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the cactus. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- Running stitches go in and out along a line.
- In every step of putting it together: 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.
- 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. In a BLO round, use the back loops instead.
- No plastic eyes are used: every detail is worked in yarn.
- 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, the size written here: 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): 6¾ in (17 cm) tall with the blooms and 4 in (10 cm) across the arms; the pot 2 5/8 in (6.7 cm) across at the rim; 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): 13¼ in (33.5 cm) tall with the blooms and 7¾ in (19.5 cm) across the arms; the pot 5 in (12.5 cm) across at the rim; 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): 16¾ in (42.5 cm) tall with the blooms and 10 in (25.5 cm) across the arms; the pot 6¼ in (16 cm) across at the rim; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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 dc is treble.

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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 next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in BLO of each st around	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 11 sts**] 3 times**	**(39 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	Sc in each st around	**(39 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next 12 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts**] 3 times**	**(45 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	Sc in each st around	**(45 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 14 sts**] 3 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	Sc in each st around	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 18 to 19**	Sc in each st around	**(54 sc)**

A box for each round, 18 to 19: tick them off as you go.

☐ 18 ☐ 19

☐ **Rnd 20**	With F, working in BLO all the way round, **[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 24**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

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

☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 26**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 27**	**[**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.	

Trunk

Yarn A, cactus green.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 34 stitches wide. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 35.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(34 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 28**	Ch 1, turn, sc in BLO of each st across	**(34 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 28: 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 ☐ 23 ☐ 24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26 ☐ 27 ☐ 28

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 26 in (66 cm) tail for sewing.	

Arm: make 2

Yarn A, cactus green.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 17 stitches wide. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 18.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(17 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 18**	Ch 1, turn, sc in BLO of each st across	**(17 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 18: tick them off as you go.

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

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing.	

Bloom: make 5

Yarns in order of use: E, cream; D, yellow.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	With D, 3 sc in each of next 5 sts	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**2 dc in each of next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 5 times**	**(25 sts)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 22 in (56 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Push the middle down and the petals up, right side inside, so that the bloom makes a small cup.	

Assembly

1. Trunk: bring the last row and the foundation chain of the trunk together, right side out, and sew them stitch to chain with the tail, so that the ridges run up and down the tube. This seam is the back. Thread a new length of A (cactus green) through the ends of all 28 rows at one end of the tube, pull it tight and fasten it: this is the top. Stuff firmly, so that the top is round. Set the open end on the soil of the pot, the seam to the back: its 28 row ends lie on round 23 of the pot (30 sts), eased to fit. Sew all the way round with a new length of A, adding stuffing before the last stitches so that the trunk stands straight.

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2. Arms: sew each of the two arms into a tube in the same way, gather one end of it with a new length of A through the ends of all 18 rows, and stuff firmly. The ring of the open end is about 1 in (25 mm) across. Pin the arms to the trunk, the seams to the back, one exactly on the left side with the middle of its open end 10 stitches above the soil, the other exactly on the right side with the middle of its open end 14 stitches above the soil. Sew all the way round each open end with a new length of A. Each arm points straight out for about 4 stitches and then turns up: bend it, and hold the bend with running stitches along its upper side, from the 2nd to the 9th stitch out from the trunk, drawn up until the rest of the arm stands upright.

3. Set the five blooms, cupped side up: three close together on the top of the trunk, one at the front left, one at the front right and one behind, and one on the top of each arm. The tail hangs at the rim of the cup: first run it down the outside of the cup, through the backs of the stitches, to round 1. Then sew the bloom down with it in a circle about 3/8 in (10 mm) across under its middle, going round twice. The petals stay free.

Finishing

- 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.
- Spines: with C (white), work small V shapes of two straight stitches, the point of the V toward the soil (on an arm, toward the trunk), each about 3/16 in (5 mm) wide and 3/16 in (5 mm) tall. Work them along the ridges, one V over one stitch of the row: the trunk has 14 ridges, an arm has 9. On a ridge of the trunk count the stitches up from the soil and work a V on stitch 4 and on every 4th stitch after it (4, 8, 12 and so on); on the next ridge begin at stitch 6 (6, 10, 14 and so on), and go on by turns. On a ridge of an arm count from the trunk: stitches 6, 10 and 14 on one ridge, stitches 8 and 12 on the next. Leave out a V where a piece covers its place.
- Weave every tail through the cactus and trim it.

In all: 9 pieces; 2,713 stitches (924 in the pot, 952 in the trunk, 306 in each arm, 45 in each bloom).

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

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