Shell flap evening clutch

Medium · US terms



Finished size
About 10¼ in (26 cm) wide and 6¼ in (16 cm) tall, closed

Skill
Intermediate
The body is one flat piece, and tiers of shells are worked into loops left free on its flap.

Yarn
Fine (2)

Hook
2.75 mm (US C-2)

Gauge
24 stitches and 28 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn: plum, fine (2) **about 450 yd (411 m), an estimate**

Fiber: mercerized cotton

Hook: 2.75 mm (US C-2), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a round pearl button with a shank, about 5/8 in (1.6 cm) across, with sewing thread, a sewing needle for the thread, a yarn needle, scissors and a pin.

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.

Sizes

Size	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Small	8¼ in (21 cm) wide, 5 in (12.5 cm) tall	about 300 yd (274 m)
Medium (this file)	**10¼ in (26 cm) wide, 6¼ in (16 cm) tall**	**about 450 yd (411 m)**

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Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

ch	chain stitch
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
tr	treble crochet (UK dtr, double treble)
BLO	back loop only
st	stitch
sk	skip (UK miss)
RS	right side

Gauge

24 stitches and 28 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet. Along a row, count every stitch and every chain between stitches as one.

The flap is counted in the same way as the body.

The pattern also stops you to measure after row 43.

The swatch. A test piece to measure and pull out. It is not the start of the pattern. Lay it flat and count the stitches and rows over 4 in (10 cm) in its middle. There should be 24 stitches and 28 rows. If you count more stitches than that, change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, change to a smaller hook. The swatch can be pulled out and its yarn used again.

Swatch foundation	Ch 37.	
Swatch row 1 (RS)	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(36 sc)**
Swatch rows 2 to 42	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(36 sc)**

Before you start

- The chain of 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.
- Where the pattern says BLO in the flap, put the hook under the back loop only. These are right side rows, so the front loops of the row below stay free on the right side of the flap, the side that shows.
- Along the last row a tier goes under both loops of each stitch. In all the other tiers, the full ones and the half shell ones, a stitch means one free front loop: put the hook under that loop alone, from the front.
- In a half shell tier the chain of 4 at the start counts as the first treble crochet of the first half shell.
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug.

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Instructions

Chosen: Medium. 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, tr is double treble and sk is miss.

Body and flap

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 62.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(61 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 43**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(61 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 43: tick them off as you go. The heavy box is where you stop and measure.

☐ 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 ☐ 29 ☐ 30
☐ 31 ☐ 32 ☐ 33 ☐ 34 ☐ 35 ☐ 36 ☐ 37 ☐ 38 ☐ 39 ☐ 40 ☐ 41 ☐ 42 ☐ **43**

Stop and measure now, after row 43. The piece should measure about 10¼ in (26 cm) wide and 6¼ in (16 cm) tall.

☐ **Rows 44 to 88**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(61 sc)**

A box for each row, 44 to 88: tick them off as you go.

☐ 44 ☐ 45 ☐ 46 ☐ 47 ☐ 48 ☐ 49 ☐ 50 ☐ 51 ☐ 52 ☐ 53 ☐ 54 ☐ 55 ☐ 56 ☐ 57 ☐ 58 ☐ 59 ☐ 60 ☐ 61 ☐ 62 ☐ 63 ☐ 64 ☐ 65 ☐ 66 ☐ 67 ☐ 68 ☐ 69 ☐ 70 ☐ 71 ☐ 72
☐ 73 ☐ 74 ☐ 75 ☐ 76 ☐ 77 ☐ 78 ☐ 79 ☐ 80 ☐ 81 ☐ 82 ☐ 83 ☐ 84 ☐ 85 ☐ 86 ☐ 87 ☐ 88

Flap

☐ **Row 89 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(61 sc)**
☐ **Row 90**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(61 sc)**
☐ **Row 91**	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of each st across	**(61 sc)**
☐ **Rows 92 to 122**	Repeat rows 90 and 91 in turn: every even-numbered row is worked as row 90, every odd-numbered row as row 91. (61 sc)	

A box for each row, 92 to 122: tick them off as you go.

☐ 92 ☐ 93 ☐ 94 ☐ 95 ☐ 96 ☐ 97 ☐ 98 ☐ 99 ☐ 100 ☐ 101 ☐ 102 ☐ 103 ☐ 104 ☐ 105 ☐ 106 ☐ 107 ☐ 108 ☐ 109 ☐ 110 ☐ 111 ☐ 112 ☐ 113 ☐ 114 ☐ 115 ☐ 116 ☐ 117 ☐ 118 ☐ 119 ☐ 120
☐ 121 ☐ 122

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Full tier: make 9

☐ **Foundation**	For the first one the 61 stitches of row 122, the last row, both loops; for the other 8 the free front loops of rows 90, 94, 98, 102, 106, 110, 114 and 118; the right side facing you and the last row of the flap away from you.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Join yarn with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 7 tr in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 10 times**	**(11 sc, 70 tr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

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Half shell tier: make 8

☐ **Foundation**	The free front loops of rows 92, 96, 100, 104, 108, 112, 116 and 120; 61 stitches; the right side facing you and the last row of the flap away from you.
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Join yarn with sl st in first st, ch 4 (counts as tr), 3 tr in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 7 tr in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 9 times**, sk next 2 sts, 4 tr in last st **(71 tr, 10 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).

Assembly

1. The tiers. They are worked one at a time, after the body and flap are done, in this order: first a full tier along the last row of the flap, the edge of the flap. Then go back row by row toward the body: a half shell tier in the front loops of row 120, a full tier in those of row 118, and so on by turns, every second row, to the last, a full tier in row 90. Every tier begins at the right hand end. Each shell stands toward the edge of the flap and lies over the foot of the tier worked before it. Weave each tail in behind its tier.

2. Fold. Lay the piece right side down with the foundation chain toward you. Fold the first 43 rows up over the next 45, so that the fold lies between rows 43 and 44. The right side is outside, and the last 34 rows with their shells are the flap.

3. The sides. For each side cut a length of yarn about 32 in (81.5 cm) long. Beginning at the fold with a tail of 6 in (15 cm), whip stitch the two layers together up that side to the foundation chain, one stitch for each of the first 43 rows, row to row; the back has 45 rows, and its last 2 rows, just below the flap, stay free. Work 3 stitches in the same place at the top and fasten off inside. The right side is outside.

4. The button. Fold the flap down over the front and smooth it. Put the pin into the front straight below the middle of the edge of the flap, 30 stitches from each side, about ¾ in (2 cm) above the fold, so that a button there comes just below the tips of the shells. Lift the flap and sew the button to the front at the pin by its shank with sewing thread, 5 times through the front layer only.

5. The loop. Ch 22, about 3 in (7.5 cm) long, with a tail of 6 in (15 cm) at both ends. On the wrong side of the flap, at the middle of its last row, stitch 31 of the 61, sew both its ends with their tails, side by side, 5 small stitches for each, so that the loop hangs down behind the edge shells. To close the clutch, draw the loop over the button.

Finishing

- Weave every tail that is left in on the inside. Lay the shells flat, each over the one below, and let them set under a damp cloth.

In all: 8,819 stitches (7,442 in the body and flap, 81 in each full tier, 81 in each half shell tier).

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

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