Spiral cat toy

US terms



Finished size
About 6 in (15 cm) long, each spiral about 4½ in (11.5 cm) long and 1 in (2.5 cm) across

Skill
Beginner
Five pieces worked in rounds and rows 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: tomato red, ball and red spiral	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: marigold, ball and marigold spiral	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: turquoise, ball and turquoise spiral	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: violet, ball and violet spiral	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**

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

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: how is under “Before you start” (UK dc2tog, double cro
ch	chain stitch
MR	magic ring
RS	right side
Rnd	round
st	stitch

Gauge

20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet, 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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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 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.
- Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- 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.
- No plastic eyes are used.
- Any yarn will do, with a hook that gives a close, firm fabric, and the toy grows or shrinks with it. In fine (2, sport) yarn with a 2.25 mm (B-1) hook each spiral is about 3¼ in (8.5 cm) long; in bulky (5, chunky) yarn with a 5 mm (H-8) hook about 6¼ in (16 cm). For a longer or a shorter spiral begin with more or fewer chains: in worsted yarn 8 chains make about 1 in (25 mm) of spiral. Row 1 has one stitch less than the chain has chains, and row 2 three times as many stitches as row 1.

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.

Ball

Yarns in order of use: A, tomato red; B, marigold; C, turquoise; D, violet.

☐ **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**	With B, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 3 times**	**(21 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in each st around	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 7 to 8**	With C, sc in each st around	**(24 sc)**

A box for each round, 7 to 8: tick them off as you go.

☐ 7 ☐ 8

☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	**(21 sc)**

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

☐ **Rnd 10**	With D, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 3 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**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.	

Red spiral

Yarn A, tomato red.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 36 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 37.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 3 sc in each of next 36 sts	**(108 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. The end with this tail is the top. The strip winds up by itself: turn it between finger and thumb until it makes an even spiral with row 2 round the outside.	

Marigold spiral

Yarn B, marigold.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 36 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 37.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 3 sc in each of next 36 sts	**(108 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. The end with this tail is the top. The strip winds up by itself: turn it between finger and thumb until it makes an even spiral with row 2 round the outside.	

Turquoise spiral

Yarn C, turquoise.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 36 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 37.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 3 sc in each of next 36 sts	**(108 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. The end with this tail is the top. The strip winds up by itself: turn it between finger and thumb until it makes an even spiral with row 2 round the outside.	

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Violet spiral

Yarn D, violet.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 36 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 37.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 3 sc in each of next 36 sts	**(108 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. The end with this tail is the top. The strip winds up by itself: turn it between finger and thumb until it makes an even spiral with row 2 round the outside.	

Assembly

1. Each spiral is sewn to the ball by the short edge at its top, where the ends of its two rows lie side by side. Set the four round the closed hole of the ball, on round 11 (12 sts): the red spiral on stitches 1 and 2 of the round, the marigold spiral on stitches 4 and 5, the turquoise spiral on stitches 7 and 8 and the violet spiral on stitches 10 and 11. With its own tail, sew across each edge twice, under both loops of the stitches of the ball.

2. Where two spirals touch at the top, take two stitches through both.

3. Ends: run the tail at the top of each spiral through the ball, out on the far side, and trim it. The other end of each spiral, left from its foundation chain, hangs at the bottom: weave it into the stitches of row 1 of its own spiral for about 2 in (5 cm) and trim it.

Finishing

- Go round each seam a second time with a new length of yarn and run its two ends through the ball. Look the toy over from time to time and mend it, or put it away, when anything comes loose.

In all: 5 pieces; 786 stitches (210 in the ball, 144 in the red spiral, 144 in the marigold spiral, 144 in the turquoise spiral, 144 in the violet spiral).

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

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