Stuffed shamrock

US terms



Finished size
About 4 in (10 cm) wide and 5 in (13 cm) tall with its stem, without the loop

Skill
Intermediate
Worked in rows and rounds, with 3 pieces and color changes.

Yarn
Medium (4), 4 colors

Hook
5 mm (US H-8)

Gauge
14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: emerald green, rounds 1 and 2 of the clovers	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: dark green, round 3 of the clovers and the stem	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: lime, some of the pieces	**about 2 yd (2 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: gold, the sewn details	**about 2 yd (2 m), an estimate**

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking, toy stuffing and a spray bottle.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. Yarns A, B and D: the estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added. Yarn C: 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.

ch	chain stitch
sl st	slip stitch (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)
rem	remaining
sp	space
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side

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Gauge

14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

Work a piece a little more than 4 in (10 cm) square, lay it flat and count. If you count more stitches than this, use a larger hook; if fewer, a smaller one.

Before you start

- Rounds are worked with the right side facing; do not turn.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work the first round into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed. Use a magic ring here, not a ring of chains: a ring of chains cannot be pulled closed, and the stuffing would show through it.
- A chain 1 at the start of a round or a row does not count as a stitch.
- Fasten off the old color, then join the new one with a slip stitch in the place named; the first stitch or chain of the line is worked in that same place.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches and the chain spaces between them; slip stitches are not counted.
- In Rnd 2 each group worked in a ch-8 sp is a leaf: the single sc in its middle is the notch of the heart. The round begins in the ch-8 sp just after the sc that Rnd 1 was joined in. Its last slip stitch is worked in that same sc and closes the round.
- Rnd 3 begins in a notch. Nothing is worked into the slip stitches of Rnd 2: between two leaves the edge goes from the last hdc of one leaf straight to the first hdc of the next.
- The two clovers, one for the front and one for the back, are alike. Pull the magic ring of each tightly closed.
- The side of the stem that faces you as you work Row 1 is its right side. The end with the sewing tail is its upper end.
- The distances under FINISHING are for the yarn and gauge above; in another yarn make them larger or smaller in the same proportion as the size.
- Straight stitch (sewn): bring the yarn needle up from the back at one end of the stitch and put it down at the other end.
- Whip stitch: hold the two edges together, put the needle through both from back to front, bring the yarn over the edges and go in again from the back, one stitch along.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured the longest way: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 3¼ in (8 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 3¾ in (10 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 6¼ in (16 cm).

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Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. Round brackets ( ) inside a line hold stitches that all go into one place. 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 sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, hdc is half treble, dc is treble and tr is double treble.

Clover: make 2

Yarns in order of use: A, emerald green; B, dark green.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, **[**sc in ring, ch 8**] 3 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(3 sc, 3 ch-8 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, (hdc, dc, 4 tr, dc, sc, dc, 4 tr, dc, hdc) in next ch-8 sp, [sl st in next sc, (hdc, dc, 4 tr, dc, sc, dc, 4 tr, dc, hdc) in next ch-8 sp] twice, sl st in next sc	**(6 hdc, 12 dc, 24 tr, 3 sc)**
	Fasten off A.	
☐ **Rnd 3**	Join B with sl st in any sc, ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next st, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next st, [sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in each of next 3 sts, sc in next st] twice, sl st in first sc to join	**(63 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Stem

Yarn B, dark green.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 10.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in each rem ch across	**(9 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing.	

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Finishing

- Block: pin the two clovers flat, right side up, both to the same size and shape. Pin the stem right side up, its upper end at the top, in a gentle curve: the upper half straight, the lower half bent to the right until the lower end lies ¼ in (0.6 cm) to the right of the line of the upper half. Spray all three with water and let them dry, so that the stem keeps its curve. Weave in the ends of the clovers on the wrong side.
- Lay one clover down, right side up, with one leaf pointing straight up and two leaves below: this is the front. The middle line of a leaf runs from the magic ring to its notch.
- Veins: each leaf of the front has one vein along its middle line: two straight stitches of C that lie side by side, worked through the same two places. The first place is the single sc of Rnd 2 in the notch: the needle goes through the middle of that stitch, under its top loops, between its strands. The second place is the middle of the closed magic ring, the point where the three leaves meet, and it is the same for all three veins: the needle goes between the strands of the ring there. If the ring is closed so tightly that no opening shows, push the needle through at that point.
- For each vein thread the yarn needle with one strand of C, 14 in (36 cm) long. Bring the needle up from the back at the first place, leaving a 4 in (10 cm) tail on the wrong side, carry the yarn flat along the middle line to the second place and put the needle down there. The stitch has now gone over the yarn of the closed ring on its way to the middle: the ring holds its inner end, and it cannot slide outward along the ch-8 sp. Do not put the needle down in the ch-8 sp itself, where there is nothing to hold it. On the wrong side carry the yarn back to the first place, bring the needle up once more through the same sc, beside the first stitch, and put it down again in the middle of the ring. Draw the yarn just snug, so that the leaf stays flat. The two stitches cover the slit that the ch-8 sp may leave in the middle of the leaf. Weave in both ends of each vein on the wrong side of the front now, because they cannot be reached once the two clovers are sewn together.
- Lay the two clovers one on the other, wrong sides together, notch on notch. Each stitch of Rnd 3 of the front then lies over a stitch of Rnd 3 of the back: 63 pairs, 21 for each leaf.
- Cut a 60 in (152 cm) length of B to sew them together in whip stitch, the front facing you, one stitch in each pair: bring the needle from the back to the front through both loops of the two stitches of a pair, draw the yarn snug, carry it over the edge to the back and go on to the next pair. Go round to the left (to the right if you are left-handed). Begin between two leaves, in the first pair of the leaf that lies ahead of you: the sc of Rnd 3 that stands in the nearest hdc of that leaf.
- Fill as you sew. Sew the 21 pairs of the first leaf and fill it lightly with toy stuffing, pushing the stuffing into both its round ends; do the same with the second leaf. Then sew 12 pairs of the third leaf and fill it and the middle through the gap. If stuffing shows between the tall stitches, push small ends of yarn A in between it and the front, and do this in each leaf before you go on to the next. Last, sew the 9 pairs that are left and fasten off.
- Stem: turn the shamrock face down, with the leaf that points up still at the top, and lay the stem on it, right side down, along the line that runs straight down from the magic ring between the two lower leaves. The upper end is 3/8 in (1 cm) from the middle of the magic ring and the rest hangs down. With its tail, sew the upper 7/8 in (2.2 cm) of the stem along both its edges to the edges of the two leaves it lies on, through the back only.
- Loop: with D, leaving 6 in (15 cm) tails, ch 12 (a length of about 2¾ in, 7 cm) and fasten off. With the tails, sew both ends of the chain, side by side, to the back of the leaf that points up, on its middle line, 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) from the middle of the magic ring.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 3 pieces; 231 stitches (111 in each clover, 9 in the stem).

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