Sugar skull applique

US terms



Finished size
About 4¼ in (11 cm) wide and about 5¼ in (13 cm) tall

Skill
Intermediate
Worked in rows and rounds, with 6 pieces, color changes and 1 special stitch.

Yarn
Light (3), 6 colors

Hook
4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge
18 stitches and 19 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: white, the skull	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: black, round 1 of the eyes and the nose	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: hot pink, round 3 of the eyes	**about 9 yd (8 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: teal, round 2 of the eyes	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: marigold orange, round 2 of the marigolds	**about 6 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: golden yellow, round 1 of the marigolds	**about 3 yd (3 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 20 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking 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. The estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

Gauge

18 stitches and 19 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

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.

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. After round 2 the skull measures about 1½ in (4 cm) across.

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Notes

- Rounds are worked with the right side facing; do not turn.
- Where a line says turn, turn the piece over and work back along the stitches just made.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work the first round or row into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed. Four chains joined into a ring with a slip stitch may be used instead.
- 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.
- At the start of a round, same st is the stitch the round before was joined in; after a new color is joined, it is the stitch the color was joined in.
- A round worked in each st around begins in the st the round before was joined in, or the new color was joined in.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches are not counted.
- The right side of the skull is the side that faces you in Rnds 1 to 6. Row 7 goes straight on from Rnd 6 without turning; its first sc is in the st Rnd 6 was joined in. Rows 7 to 10 are the jaw: it stands on the first 14 hdc of Rnd 6, between the two groups of 12 dc, which are the cheeks.
- In Rnd 3 of the eye the 3 dc in one st are a petal and the sc is the notch between two petals. In Rnd 2 of the marigold every st makes a petal.
- In the nose the first hdc is the point and the sl st is the notch between its two round lobes. Pull the ring tight.
- 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.
- Backstitch (sewn): thread the yarn needle and bring it up from the back one stitch length (about ¼ in, 0.6 cm, and half that round a small curve, unless the line names another) along the line. Put it down at the start of the line and bring it up again one stitch length ahead of where it last came up; keep going down at the end of the stitch before and up one length ahead.
- French knot (sewn): bring the yarn needle up from the back, wrap the yarn twice round the needle close to the surface, hold the wraps and put the needle down beside the place where it came up. For a large knot use the yarn double and wrap it three times.
- 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.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured the longest way: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 4½ in (11 cm); medium yarn (4) and a 5 mm hook, about 6½ in (17 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 8½ in (22 cm).

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Instructions

US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **st** stitch, **rnd** round.
RS right side, the one that shows.
2 hdc in next st: both in one stitch. **hdc in next 2 sts**: one in each.
[ ] 7 times: work what is inside 7 times in all. **( )**: all of it goes into the one place.
(8 hdc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Special stitches

sc2tog (UK dc2tog): [insert the hook in the next stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop] twice (3 loops on the hook), yarn over and pull through all 3 loops.

Skull

Yarn A, white.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1, 8 hdc in ring, pull the tail to close the ring, sl st in first hdc to join	(8 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 hdc in each st around, sl st in first hdc to join	(16 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, hdc in same st, 2 hdc in next st, **[**hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st**] 7 times**, sl st in first hdc to join	(24 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, hdc in same st, hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st, **[**hdc in next 2 sts, 2 hdc in next st**] 7 times**, sl st in first hdc to join	(32 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, hdc in same st, hdc in next 2 sts, 2 hdc in next st, **[**hdc in next 3 sts, 2 hdc in next st**] 7 times**, sl st in first hdc to join	(40 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 1, hdc in same st, hdc in next 2 sts, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next 4 sts, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in each of next 2 sts, dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in each of next 2 sts, hdc in next 3 sts, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next 4 sts, 2 hdc in next st, hdc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in each of next 2 sts, dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in each of next 2 sts, sl st in first hdc to join	(28 hdc, 24 dc)
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 13 sts, leave the remaining 38 sts unworked	(14 sc)
☐ **Rows 8 to 9** 8 9	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	(14 sc)
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog in next 2 sts, sc in next 10 sts, sc2tog in next 2 sts	(2 sc2tog, 10 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 45 in (114 cm) tail, for sewing this piece down at the end.	

Eye: make 2

Yarns in order of use: B, black; D, teal; C, hot pink.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 8 sc in ring, pull the tail to close the ring, sl st in first sc to join	(8 sc)

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Fasten off B.

☐ **Rnd 2**	Join D with sl st in any st, ch 1, 2 sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(16 sc)
	Fasten off D.	
☐ **Rnd 3**	Join C with sl st in any st, ch 1, sc in same st, 3 dc in next st, **[**sc in next st, 3 dc in next st**] 7 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(8 sc, 24 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing.	

Nose

Yarn B, black.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, (hdc, sc, sc, hdc, sc, sl st, sc, hdc, sc, sc) in ring, pull the tail to close the ring, sl st in first hdc to join	(3 hdc, 6 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing.	

Marigold: make 2

Yarns in order of use: F, golden yellow; E, marigold orange.

☐ **Foundation**	With F, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 8 sc in ring, pull the tail to close the ring, sl st in first sc to join	(8 sc)
	Fasten off F.	
☐ **Rnd 2**	Join E with sl st in any st, ch 1, (hdc, dc, hdc) in same st, **[**(hdc, dc, hdc) in next st**] 7 times**, sl st in first hdc to join	(16 hdc, 8 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing.	

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Finishing

- Block: pin the pieces to shape on a flat surface, spray them with water and let them dry.
- Lay the skull down, right side up, with the jaw at the bottom. Its middle is its magic ring, its middle line runs from the top through the magic ring to the middle of Row 10, and its level line runs across through the magic ring. What is said of one side is done on the other side too, as in a mirror.
- Lay the eyes on it side by side, right side up, one petal of each straight up. Their middles are 1 7/8 in (4.8 cm) apart, one on each side of the middle line, and ¼ in (0.6 cm) below the level line. Sew each down with its tail, all round, under the tips of the petals.
- Lay the nose on it, right side up, its point straight up and its notch straight down, its magic ring on the middle line 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) below the magic ring of the skull. Sew it down all round its edge with its tail.
- Lay the marigolds on the top of the skull, right side up, with a notch between two petals straight up and another toward the middle line. Their middles are 1½ in (3.8 cm) apart, one on each side of the middle line, and 1 5/8 in (4.1 cm) above the level line; their upper petals stand out past the edge of the skull. Sew each down with its tail wherever it lies on the skull.
- Forehead: with F, work a large French knot on the middle line ¾ in (1.9 cm) above the level line. With C, work four large French knots round it, each ¼ in (0.6 cm) from it: one above, one below, one to the left and one to the right. With D, work three large French knots at each side: one 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) from the middle line and 1 in (2.5 cm) above the level line, one 1 5/8 in (4.1 cm) from it and ¾ in (1.9 cm) above, and one 1¾ in (4.4 cm) from it and ½ in (1.3 cm) above.
- Cheeks: with D, work a scroll in backstitch on each cheek. It begins 7/8 in (2.2 cm) from the middle line and 1¾ in (4.4 cm) below the level line, goes outward through a point 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) from the middle line and 1¾ in (4.4 cm) below, turns up through a point 1¼ in (3.2 cm) from it and 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) below, curls over through a point 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) from it and 1¼ in (3.2 cm) below, and ends inside the curl, 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) from it and 1½ in (3.8 cm) below. With C, work a large French knot 5/8 in (1.6 cm) from the middle line and 1 5/8 in (4.1 cm) below the level line.
- Mouth: with B, work a line of backstitch across the jaw, from 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) at one side of the middle line to 1 1/8 in (2.9 cm) at the other. Its middle is 2¼ in (5.7 cm) below the level line and its ends are 2 1/8 in (5.4 cm) below it. Across it work five straight stitches up and down for the teeth, each ½ in (1.3 cm) long with its middle on the line: one on the middle line of the skull, and one ½ in (1.3 cm) and one 7/8 in (2.2 cm) to each side of it.
- To sew the applique to your project, pin it where it is to go and sew round its edge with the long tail, under the outermost strands of the stitches; where a part is of another color, use a length of that color.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 6 pieces.

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