Sugar skull cat

US terms



Finished size

About 5½ in (14 cm) long from the front of the paws to the back of the body, 4½ in (11.5 cm) across with the tail and 4½ in (11.5 cm) tall to the tips of the ears

Skill

Intermediate

13 pieces worked in rounds and rows and sewn together.

Yarn

Light (3), 6 colors

Hook

2.75 mm (US C-2)

Gauge

24 stitches and 26.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet, in a spiral.

What you need

Yarn A: charcoal, the main color	**about 200 yd (183 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: slate gray, front leg and tail	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: white, mask and the details	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: hot pink, inner ear and the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: marigold, marigold and the details	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: turquoise, the details	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**

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

Hook: 2.75 mm (US C-2), 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.

The pieces



Body **Head** **Mask** to the head **Ear x 2** to the head **Inner ear x 2** **Front leg x 2** to the body **Haunch x 2** to the body **Tail** to the body

Marigold

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Gauge

24 stitches and 26.4 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 1 7/8 in (4.8 cm) across. 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.

Notes

- 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.
- Lazy daisy stitch: bring the needle up at the inner end of the petal and put it down again in the same place, leaving a loop on the surface as long as the petal. Bring it up at the outer end, inside the loop, pull until the loop lies flat and round, and put it down over the end of the loop, so that a tiny stitch holds it.
- 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 A," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in A. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- Center line: places on a piece are given by round and by stitches from a center line. It is half way round from where the rounds begin. Mark it with a pin or a scrap of yarn as listed here, run it straight from round 1 to the last round by eye, and count out from it along the round, in stitches and half stitches.
- Body: the center line runs between stitches 27 and 28 of round 11 (54 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.
- Head: the center line runs between stitches 24 and 25 of round 9 (48 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the top.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the toy. 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: every detail is worked in yarn.
- One size, at the gauge above: 5½ in (14 cm) long from the front of the paws to the back of the body, 4½ in (11.5 cm) across with the tail and 4½ in (11.5 cm) tall to the tips of the ears. A thinner or a thicker yarn with a hook to suit makes it smaller or larger; every length then changes with it.

Instructions

US terms.

ch chain, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **MR** magic ring, **Rnd** round, **st** stitch.

sc2tog 2 sc made into one, **yo** yarn over the hook, **RS** right side, the one that shows.

2 sc in next st: both in one stitch. **sc in next 2 sts**: one in each.

[ ] 6 times: work what is inside 6 times in all.

(6 sc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

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Body

Yarn A, charcoal.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(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**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in each st around	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	(54 sc)

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 27 and 28 of round 11. This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.

☐ **Rnds 12 to 30**	Sc in each st around	(54 sc)

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

☐ **Rnd 31**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 32**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 33**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 34**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 35**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 36**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(24 sc)

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

☐ **Rnd 37**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 38**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 39**	**[**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.	

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Head

Yarn A, charcoal.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(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 each st around	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 24 and 25 of round 9. It faces the front, round 1 at the top.

☐ **Rnds 10 to 15**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)

10 11 12 13 14 15

☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sc in each st around	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)

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

☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**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.	

Mask

Yarn C, white.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(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)

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☐ **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 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**, sc in next st, hdc in next st, dc in next 6 sts, hdc in next st, sc in next st, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**	(34 sts)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in next 12 sts, sc2tog, hdc in next st, dc in next 4 sts, hdc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 12 sts	(32 sts)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat with the right side up. The 4 dc of round 7 are the middle of the chin: they are the lower end of the mask.	

Ear: make 2

Yarn A, charcoal.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(4 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**	(8 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	(14 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**	(16 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in each st around	(16 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 8 stitches.	

Inner ear: make 2

Yarn D, hot pink.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**3 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat: it is a small triangle, with a corner at the middle one of each three sc in one stitch.	

Front leg: make 2

Yarns in order of use: B, slate gray; A, charcoal.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)

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☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	(14 sc)
☐ **Rnds 4 to 5**	Sc in each st around	(14 sc)
4 5		
☐ **Rnds 6 to 11**	With A, sc in each st around	(14 sc)
6 7 8 9 10 11		
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff lightly up to the open edge.	

Haunch: make 2

Yarn A, charcoal.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(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)
☐ **Rnds 7 to 8**	Sc in each st around	(36 sc)
7 8		
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff lightly up to the open edge.	

Tail

Yarns in order of use: B, slate gray; A, charcoal.

Stuff lightly every few rounds as you go, so that the tube still bends.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(5 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st	(7 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in next st, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	(9 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnds 5 to 8**	With A, sc in each st around	(10 sc)
5 6 7 8		
☐ **Rnds 9 to 11**	With B, sc in each st around	(10 sc)
9 10 11		
☐ **Rnds 12 to 15**	With A, sc in each st around	(10 sc)
12 13 14 15		

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☐ **Rnds 16 to 18** 16 17 18	With B, sc in each st around	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnds 19 to 22** 19 20 21 22	With A, sc in each st around	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnds 23 to 25** 23 24 25	With B, sc in each st around	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnds 26 to 29** 26 27 28 29	With A, sc in each st around	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnds 30 to 32** 30 31 32	With B, sc in each st around	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnds 33 to 37** 33 34 35 36 37	With A, sc in each st around	(10 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing.	

Marigold

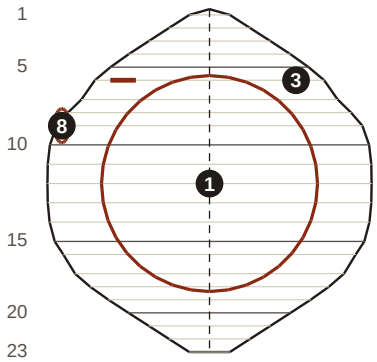
Yarn E, marigold.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 24 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With E, ch 25.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	(24 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 3 sc in each of next 24 sts	(72 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. The tail hangs at the end where row 2 ended. Row 2 ruffles the strip. Roll it up: begin at the end where row 2 began, with the side that faced you in row 2 on the inside, and roll it round itself, keeping the foundation chain level at the bottom, until the end with the tail is on the outside, a little over three turns. Let the ruffle stand out all round. The bottom is about 5/8 in (16 mm) across. With the tail, sew back and forth through all the turns along the foundation chain until it holds.	

Assembly

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Head: 1 mask, 3 ears, 8 bottom of the marigold

A number is the step below that puts it on; a letter is put on under Finishing. Each line is a round, counted as the rounds are worked. The upright broken line is the center line. A place with a broken edge is on the far side.

1. Lay the mask flat on the head, right side out, the middle of it on round 12, on the center line, its chin straight down. Sew down all 32 stitches of the edge.

2. Lay the body on the table with its center line along the top, round 1 to the front. Press its underside flat, so that the table is about 7/8 in (22 mm) below the middle of round 1. Set the head, round 1 up, on the upper front of the body: the place on round 18 of the head (36 sts), 15½ stitches to the left of its center line as you look at the face, lies on round 9 of the body, on the center line of the body. Round 22 of the head comes toward the front, on about round 4 of the body, and round 13 of the head toward the back, on about round 14 of the body. In this way the face looks forward and to the left, over the left front leg. Sew the two together all the way round where they touch, an oval that covers rounds 4 to 14 of the body and 6 stitches to each side of its center line, going round twice with a new length of A (charcoal).

3. Pin the two ears to the head: the middle of each flat edge lies on round 6, one to each side, 8 stitches from the center line (16 stitches apart). The flat edge runs from side to side: its inner end is on about round 2, 1½ stitches from the center line; its outer end is on about round 10, 12½ stitches from the center line. They point up and a little out to the side. Sew through both layers of the 8-stitch edge with the tail.

4. Sew one inner ear flat to the side of each ear that faces forward, right side out, all 12 stitches of the edge: one corner (the middle one of three sc in one stitch) points straight to the tip of the ear, and the middle of its round 1 lies over round 5 of the ear, halfway between the two folds.

5. Pin the two front legs to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 5 (30 sts), one to each side, 11 stitches from the center line (8 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). The edge (14 sts) covers about rounds 3 to 7. They point straight forward, side by side, and their undersides lie on the table, level with the underside of the body. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

6. Pin the two haunches to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 27, one to each side, 13½ stitches from the center line (27 stitches apart). The edge (36 sts) covers about rounds 21 to 33 of the body. They point out to the side. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

7. Pin the tail to the body: the middle of the open edge lies on round 35 (30 sts), 10½ stitches to the left of the center line. The edge has 10 sts. It points back and to the left, then turns forward and lies on the table along the left side of the body, round the outside of the haunch, and its tip (round 1) lies on the table beside the left front leg, level with about round 5 of the leg. Bend it as you pin it. Sew all the way round with its tail of yarn, then hold the curve: with a new length of A (charcoal) sew the tail to the haunch and the body where they touch, along about rounds 23 to 35 of the tail. The rest lies free.

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8. Set the bottom of the marigold on the head, its middle on round 9, 10 stitches to the left of the center line, in front of the outer end of the left ear, the ruffle toward the front. Sew it down all the way round, through the ear where it lies over it.

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 on the wrong side of a flat piece, inside a stuffed one. Satin stitch is straight stitches side by side until the shape is filled. Backstitch is a line of short stitches end to end: bring the needle up one stitch ahead, put it down at the end of the stitch before, and repeat.
- Eyes: with A (charcoal), in satin stitch, an upright oval 5/16 in (8 mm) wide and 3/8 in (10 mm) tall on each side of the mask, its middle 3/8 in (10 mm) out from the middle of the mask (round 1) and 3/16 in (5 mm) above it.
- Eye petals: with D (hot pink), eight lazy daisy petals round each eye, evenly spaced, turned so that straight up from the middle of the eye falls halfway between two petals. Each begins 3/16 in (5 mm) from the middle of the eye and ends 3/8 in (10 mm) from it.
- Eye shine: with C (white), three tiny straight stitches side by side, 1/16 in (2 mm) long, at the upper left of each eye, as you look at it.
- Nose: with A (charcoal), in satin stitch worked up and down, an upside-down heart about 5/16 in (8 mm) wide and ¼ in (6 mm) tall: its point is at the top, its two round lobes at the bottom. Its middle is on the mask, on the line from its middle to the chin, ¼ in (6 mm) below the middle of the mask.
- Smile line: with A (charcoal), in backstitch, one curve 1 in (25 mm) wide that dips 1/16 in (2 mm) below its ends. Its lowest point is ¾ in (19 mm) below the middle of the mask, straight above the middle of the chin.
- Teeth: with A (charcoal), five upright straight stitches across the smile line, half of each above it and half below: one at its lowest point and two to each side, 3/16 in (5 mm) and 3/8 in (10 mm) from that one. Each is ¼ in (6 mm) long.
- Forehead flower: with F (turquoise), six lazy daisy petals, evenly spaced, one of them straight up, round a point on the mask 11/16 in (17 mm) above its middle. Each begins 1/16 in (2 mm) from the point and ends 3/16 in (5 mm) from it.
- Cheek dots: with F (turquoise), two tiny dots of satin stitch, 1/16 in (2 mm) across, on each side of the mask, 11/16 in (17 mm) out from its middle: one 1/8 in (3 mm) and one ¼ in (6 mm) below the level of the middle.
- Haunch flowers: with E (marigold), eight lazy daisy petals on each haunch, round its middle (round 1): one straight up, one straight down, one to the front, one to the back and one in each gap. Each begins 1/8 in (3 mm) from the middle and ends ½ in (13 mm) from it. In the middle, with D (hot pink), a satin stitch dot ¼ in (6 mm) across; in each of the eight gaps between the petals, with F (turquoise), a satin stitch dot 1/8 in (3 mm) across, its middle ½ in (13 mm) from the middle of the flower.
- Back flowers: with F (turquoise), two flowers on each side of the body, their middles on round 19 and round 26, 6 stitches from the center line. Each has six lazy daisy petals, evenly spaced, one of them pointing straight to the center line, that begin 1/16 in (2 mm) from the middle and end ¼ in (6 mm) from it, and in the middle, with E (marigold), a satin stitch dot 1/8 in (3 mm) across.
- Weave every tail through the toy and trim it. For a toy that will be played with, go round each seam a second time with a new length of yarn. Check the seams and small parts from time to time.

In all: 13 pieces; 3,905 stitches.

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

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