Sugar skull plush

US terms



Finished size
About 4¾ in (12 cm) tall and 4½ in (11.5 cm) across without the rose, about 3¾ in (9.5 cm) from front to back

Skill
Easy
Six pieces worked in rounds and rows and sewn together.

Yarn
Medium (4), 7 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.

What you need

Yarn A: ivory, skull	**about 125 yd (114 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: charcoal, eye flower and the details	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: turquoise, eye flower	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: hot pink, rose and the details	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: marigold, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: purple, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn G: leaf green, leaf	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 95 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), 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



Skull

Eye flower x 2
to the skull

Rose

Leaf x 2
to the skull

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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 (5.7 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 C," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in C. 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.
- Skull: the center line runs between stitches 33 and 34 of round 16 (66 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.
- The rounds and stitches are the same for every size; the yarn and the hook make the difference. Lengths in the words (tails, details) are for Standard, the size written here: for another size multiply them by the number in its line.
- Small: fine (2, sport) yarn, 2.25 mm (B-1) hook, 27 sc and 30 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 3½ in (8.9 cm) tall and 3 3/8 in (8.6 cm) across without the rose, about 2¾ in (7 cm) from front to back; multiply lengths by 0.74; about 0.74 times the yarn.
- Large: bulky (5, chunky) yarn, 5 mm (H-8) hook, 14 sc and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 6¾ in (17 cm) tall and 6½ in (16.5 cm) across without the rose, about 5¼ in (13.5 cm) from front to back; multiply lengths by 1.4; about 1.4 times the yarn.
- Jumbo: super bulky (6, plush or velvet) yarn, 6.5 mm (K-10½) hook, 11 sc and 12.1 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 8¾ in (22 cm) tall and 8¼ in (21 cm) across without the rose, about 6¾ in (17 cm) from front to back; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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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**.

Skull

Yarn A, ivory.

☐ **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 each st around	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in each st around	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnds 14 to 15**	Sc in each st around	(60 sc)
	14 15	
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(66 sc)
	Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 33 and 34 of round 16. It faces the front, round 1 at the top.	
☐ **Rnds 17 to 23**	Sc in each st around	(66 sc)
	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	
☐ **Rnd 24**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 26**	Sc in each st around	(54 sc)

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☐ **Rnd 27**	**[**sc in next 7 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 28**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 29**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnds 30 to 35**	Sc in each st around	(42 sc)

30 31 32 33 34 35

☐ **Rnd 36**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 37**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 38**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)

Press the jaw into shape as you go: stuff firmly now, filling the cheeks well out, and keep adding stuffing until the last round. When it is closed, press the skull a little flatter from front to back with both hands, and press the closed end flat, so that the skull stands on it.

☐ **Rnd 39**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 40**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 41**	**[**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.	

Eye flower: make 2

Yarns in order of use: B, charcoal; C, turquoise.

☐ **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**	With C, **[**sc in next st, 2 dc in each of next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(30 sts)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 30 in (76 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat with the right side up.	

Rose

Yarn D, hot pink.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 26 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 27.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Hdc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	(26 hdc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 hdc in each of next 26 sts	(52 hdc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing. The tail hangs at the end where row 2 ended. Row 2 ruffles the strip. It is rolled into a rose when it is put on.	

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Leaf: make 2

Yarn G, leaf green.

☐ **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 each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	(8 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 3 stitches.	

Assembly

1. Lay the two eye flowers flat on the skull, right side out, the middle of each on round 19, one to each side, 5 stitches from the center line (10 stitches apart). Turn each so that the first sc of its round 4 (a dip between two petals) points straight up. Sew down all 30 stitches of the edge.

2. Mark the place of the rose with a pin: on round 10 of the skull, 8½ stitches to the right of the center line. Pin the two leaves to the skull: the middle of each flat edge lies 3/8 in (10 mm) from the pin, the edge at right angles to the line that runs from its middle to the pin. Looking straight at the pin, one leaf points up and a little to the right, toward 12 and 1 on a clock face; the other points down and to the right, toward 4 and 5. Lay each along the skull, so that it bends with it. Sew through both layers of the 3-stitch edge with its tail, then hold the tip (round 1) to the skull with a stitch.

3. Roll the strip into a rose: begin at the end where row 2 began, with the side that faced you in row 2 on the inside, and roll it up round itself about 2¾ turns, keeping the foundation chain level at the bottom, until the end with the tail is on the outside. The bottom is about 1 in (25 mm) across. Run the tail down the short end to the foundation chain and sew back and forth through all the turns along the foundation chain until it holds. Take the pin out of the skull and at once set the bottom of the rose there, its middle where the pin was, over the flat edges of the leaves. Sew it down all the way round with the rest of the tail, and fold the outer ruffle a little outward.

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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.
- Nose: with B (charcoal), in satin stitch worked up and down, an upside-down heart about 9/16 in (14 mm) wide and ½ in (13 mm) tall: its point is at the top, its two round lobes at the bottom. Its middle is on the skull on round 25, on the center line.
- Smile line: with B (charcoal), in backstitch, one long curve across the jaw. It begins on the skull between rounds 30 and 31, 5½ stitches left of the center line, dips to between rounds 31 and 32 on the center line and ends between rounds 30 and 31, 5½ stitches right of it.
- Teeth: with B (charcoal), seven upright straight stitches across the smile line, half of each above it and half below: one on the center line and three to each side, 1½, 3 and 4½ stitches from it. The middle five are ½ in (13 mm) long, the two outer ones 3/8 in (10 mm).
- Forehead flower: with E (marigold), eight lazy daisy petals round a point on the center line on round 9 of the skull: one straight up, one straight down, one to each side and one in each gap. Each begins 1/8 in (3 mm) from the point and ends 9/16 in (14 mm) from it.
- Flower center: with D (hot pink), in satin stitch, a round dot about ¼ in (6 mm) across, its middle on the skull on round 9, on the center line.
- Brow scrolls: with F (purple), in backstitch, a line on the skull: one on each side, from round 13, ½ stitch from the center line, through round 13, 1½ stitches from the center line; round 13, 2½ stitches from the center line; round 12, 3½ stitches from the center line; round 11, 4½ stitches from the center line; round 10, 5 stitches from the center line; round 9, 5 stitches from the center line; round 8, 4½ stitches from the center line; round 8, 4 stitches from the center line; round 8, 3½ stitches from the center line, to round 9, 3½ stitches from the center line.
- Nose dots: with D (hot pink), in satin stitch, two round dots about 3/16 in (5 mm) across on the center line of the skull, one with its middle on round 15 and one between rounds 16 and 17.
- Cheek petals: with D (hot pink), three lazy daisy petals in a fan on each side, from a point on round 27 of the skull, 6½ stitches from the center line: one straight down, one down and outward and one down and inward. Each begins 1/8 in (3 mm) from the point and ends 7/16 in (11 mm) from it.
- Cheek dots: with E (marigold), in satin stitch, a round dot about 3/16 in (5 mm) across over the point from which each fan of cheek petals starts.
- 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: 6 pieces; 2,156 stitches (1,794 in the skull, 66 in each eye flower, 78 in the rose, 76 in each leaf).

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

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