Dog ball with a tug handle

US terms



Finished size
The ball 4½ in (11.5 cm) across, the toy 9¾ in (25 cm) long with the handle

Skill
Intermediate
Two pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Bulky (5), 3 colors

Hook
5 mm (US H-8)

Gauge
14 stitches and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet, in a spiral.

You will need

Yarn A: rust, ball and handle	**about 80 yd (73 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: navy, ball, handle and the details	**about 90 yd (82 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: cream, ball and handle	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8), 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.

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
MR	magic ring
RS	right side
Rnd	round
st	stitch

Special stitches

bobble: [yarn over, insert hook in the stitch, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through 2 loops] 4 times in the same stitch, yarn over, pull through all 5 loops (United Kingdom: a bobble of 4 trebles). Push it out to the right side. It leaves 1 st for the next round.

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Gauge

14 stitches and 15.4 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 3¼ in (8.3 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.

Before you start

- Every piece 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.
- In place of one thicker strand, two strands of a thinner cotton may be held together, if they give the same gauge; count the yards for each strand.
- 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.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the toy. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- 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.
- The rounds and stitches are the same for every size; the yarn and the hook make the difference. Lengths in the words (tails, ovals, details) are for Standard, the size written here: for another size multiply them by the number in its line.
- Small: medium weight (4, aran) cotton yarn, 3.5 mm (E-4) hook, 20 sc and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): the ball 3¼ in (8.3 cm) across, the toy 6¾ in (17 cm) long with the handle; multiply lengths by 0.7; about 0.7 times the yarn.
- Large: super bulky (6, super chunky) cotton yarn, 8 mm (L-11) hook, 10 sc and 11 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): the ball 6½ in (16.5 cm) across, the toy 13¾ in (35 cm) long with the handle; multiply lengths by 1.4; about 1.4 times the yarn.

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, rust; B, navy; C, cream.

☐ **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**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in each st around	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	With B, **[**sc in next 2 sts, bobble in next st**] 12 times**	**(36 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	With A, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	With B, **[**sc in next 2 sts, bobble in next st**] 16 times**	**(48 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	With A, sc in each st around	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	With C, sc in each st around	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	With B, **[**sc in next 2 sts, bobble in next st**] 16 times**	**(48 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	With C, sc in each st around	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	With A, sc in each st around	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	With B, **[**sc in next 2 sts, bobble in next st**] 16 times**	**(48 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	With A, **[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	With B, **[**sc in next 2 sts, bobble in next st**] 12 times**	**(36 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 21**	With A, **[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 22**	With B, **[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

Stuff firmly now, as hard as you can, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 24**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**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.	

Handle

Yarns in order of use: B, navy; C, cream; A, rust.

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

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 3 to 8**	Sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**

A box for each round, 3 to 8: tick them off as you go.

☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8

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☐	**Rnd 9**	With C, sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐	**Rnds 10 to 15**	With B, sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**

A box for each round, 10 to 15: tick them off as you go.

10 11 12 13 14 15

☐	**Rnd 16**	With C, sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐	**Rnds 17 to 40**	With A, sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**

A box for each round, 17 to 40: tick them off as you go.

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

☐	**Rnd 41**	With C, sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐	**Rnds 42 to 47**	With B, sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**

A box for each round, 42 to 47: tick them off as you go.

42 43 44 45 46 47

☐	**Rnd 48**	With C, sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐	**Rnds 49 to 55**	With B, sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**

A box for each round, 49 to 55: tick them off as you go.

49 50 51 52 53 54 55

☐	**End**	Fasten off, leaving a 40 in (102 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff the last rounds too.

Assembly

1. The closed hole of the ball (its last round) is the top. Bend the handle into a loop and pin its two ends to the top of the ball, one on each side of the hole and straight across from each other: the middle of each end lies on round 23 of the ball (18 sts), the two middles 9 stitches apart, so that the two ends nearly touch over the hole. Sew the open end down with its tail, all 12 stitches of its edge. Sew the closed end down in the same way with a new length of B, through the 12 stitches of round 2 of the handle. Then go round both ends once more.

Finishing

- Weave every tail through the toy and trim it. Look the toy over before every game: when a stitch is broken or the stuffing shows, mend it or put the toy away. It is for playing together, not for chewing alone.

In all: 2 pieces; 1,476 stitches (822 in the ball, 654 in the handle).

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

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