

INTRODUCTION TO AMIGURUMI CROCHET - SMALL BALL OR BAT PATTERN -



THANKS FOR CHOOSING MY PATTERN!

I'd love to see what you create! Please share with me on Facebook, Instagram, Ravelry, and Etsy.

Click the icons below to find me:



SKILL LEVEL: Beginner

TERMINOLOGY: US English

- NAVIGATION -

Each page has a  on the bottom right corner – this is a link to the Table of Contents! All the titles in the table of contents and other **purple words** throughout the pattern are navigation links as well. Use these links instead of scrolling.

Please read all instructions carefully before you begin. I try to be as thorough as possible in the instructions. If you encounter a problem or believe there is an error, please email me at:

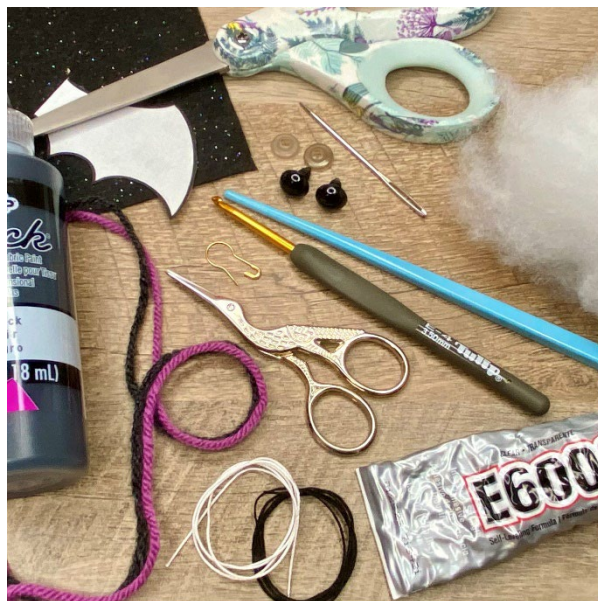
serendipitybyamanda@gmail.com.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title	Page Number
About Amigurumi	3
X-Stitches	4
Magic Circle	5
Continuous Rounds	8
Increasing	9
Decreasing	10
Invisible Decrease	11
Color Changes	12
Pattern Details	13
Pattern and Tutorial Link	14
Finish as a Bat	22
Printable Wings & Ears Template with the Text ONLY pattern	24



MATERIALS

Yarn: Size 4 yarn acrylic (2 colors – body & nose)

Crochet hook: E/3. 5mm or F/4mm

Other:

Stitch Marker Polyester Filing

Tapestry needle Scissors

Optional:

Stuffing stick

Sewing pins

Craft Felt for wings, ears, eyes, etc.

Adhesive (hot glue or E-6000)

Puff paint for wings

12mm safety eyes

Embroidery or crochet thread for face

Printer & paper for wing/ear template

ABBREVIATIONS

st(s)	stitch(es)
mc	magic circle
ch(s)	chain(s)
slst	slip stitch
sc	single crochet
inc	single crochet increase
inv dec	invisible decrease
flo	front loop only

VIDEOS

Underlined, purple links will open the
[Serendipity Designs YouTube channel](#)
 for additional help.

TIP: use the video alongside the written
 pattern.

My channel is child-friendly and unmonetized.

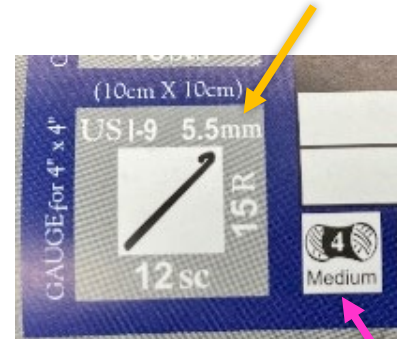


AMIGURUMI CROCHET

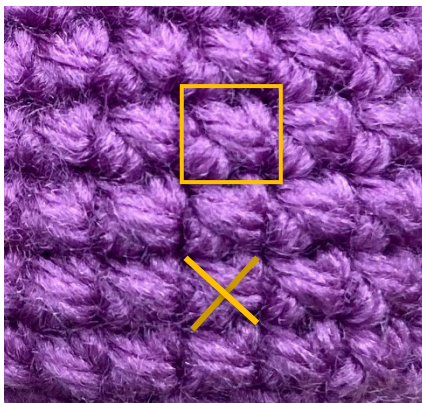
Amigurumi is a subcategory of crochet that specializes in making stuffed toys.

What makes Amigurumi different?

- ★ **Hook Size:** use a hook at least 2 sizes smaller than the yarn **recommends**. For **size 4 yarn**, 3.5mm-4mm is ideal, but it's ok to start with a hook you are comfortable using (ex. G/4.25mm).



- ★ **Tension:** tighten your tension slightly so the stitches are closer together.



- ★ **X-Stitches:** special single crochet stitches that use yarn UNDER instead of yarn over to create tighter, neater stitches (left).

- ★ **Magic Circle:** begin round one using a magic circle or ring that can be closed completely vs working into a chain (which leaves a hole to be sewn closed).

- ★ **Invisible Decrease:** a special decrease that is difficult to differentiate from normal stitches. This also reduces bulk and allows the stitches to be closer together eliminating gaps.



Chain start



Magic Circle

- ★ **Stuffing:** Add polyester filling or other stuffing material (such as yarn scraps) before closing the project. We do not want to see the stuffing through the stitches.



Invisible Decrease



Standard Decrease

We will explore these concepts more on the following pages.

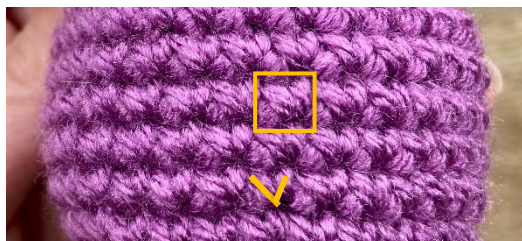


X-Stitch Video

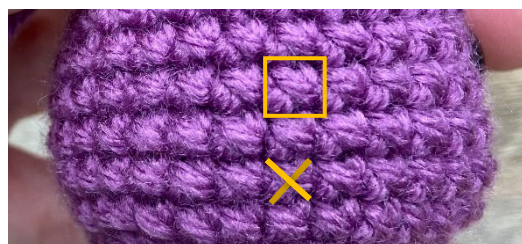
X-STITCH (AMIGURUMI SINGLE CROCHET)

In Amigurumi (making stuffed toys) we use a tighter tension and a special type of single crochet usually referred to as an x-stitch.

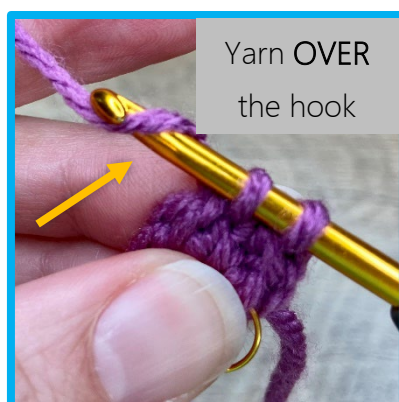
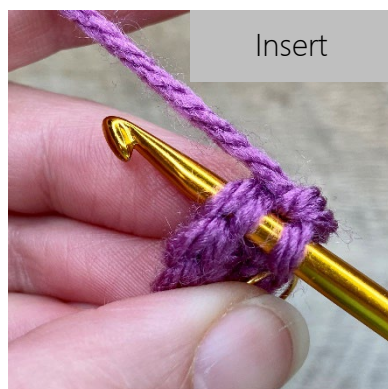
- ★ To make a **standard single crochet**: insert, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through 2 loops. This makes the "V" shaped single crochet (from the front view).



- ★ To make an **x-stitch**: insert, **YARN UNDER**, pull up a loop, **yarn over** pull through 2 loops on the hook. This makes an "X" shaped single crochet (from the front view).



Make an X-Stitch:



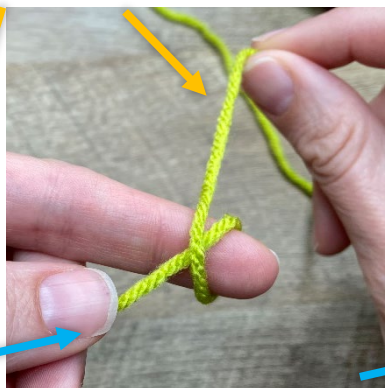
MAKING A MAGIC CIRCLE



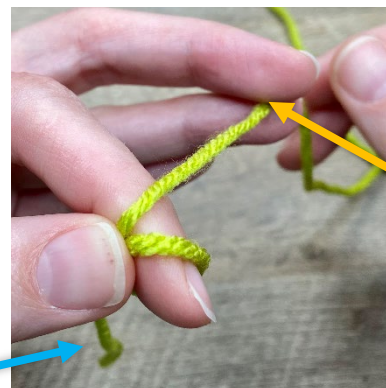
Magic circles are used to start projects that are worked in circles (especially amigurumi). This allows us to pull the beginning hole completely closed vs working into a chain stitch. I start my magic circles the same way I start a slip knot*.



1. lay the **tail** over your palm with the end pointing down.



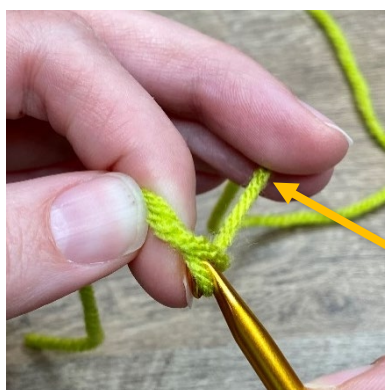
2. With your other hand, wrap the **working yarn** around your index fingertip (after the last knuckle) creating an X.



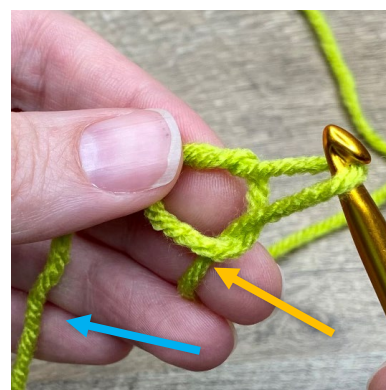
3. Use the thumb to hold the X in place and other fingers to hold the **working yarn**.



4. Insert the hook under the loop...



5. Pick up the **working yarn**...



6a. Pull the loop through, turning the hook so it doesn't fall off...

*There are many other variations online. Find what works best for you!



MAKING A MAGIC CIRCLE - CONTINUED



6b. To make a magic circle: keep your finger in the hole...



7a. Chain 1: yarn over



7b. Chain 1: pull through the loop on the hook



8. Chain 1 complete, remove the finger.



9a. Work into the hole: insert the hook.



9b. Work into the hole: yarn UNDER (x-stitch).



9c. Work into the hole: pull the loop through the hole



9d. Work into the hole: yarn OVER



9e. Work into the hole: pull through both loops = single crochet complete (x-stitch)



MAKING A MAGIC CIRCLE – CONTINUED (AGAIN)



10. Continue to work round 1 into the open circle.



11. Pull the tail to close the circle.



Front:

-  Turning Chain
-  Stitch #1
-  Stitch #2
-  Stitch #3
-  Stitch #4
-  Stitch #5
-  Stitch #6



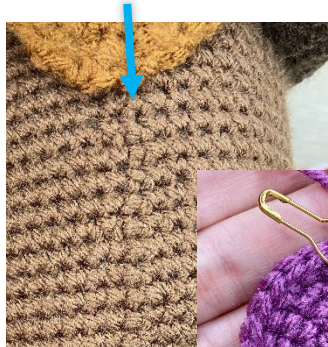
Back: The tail will always be inside the project. If you find yours is outside, turn the piece right side out.

TIP: After working round 2, make sure the circle is still closed tightly. Tie a knot to secure if desired.



WORKING IN CONTINUOUS ROUNDS

When making Amigurumi (stuffed toys) we typically work in an endless circle (spiral). To keep track of rounds, we place a stitch marker on the first stitch of each round (moving the marker each time we start a new round). Always work from the frontside of the project (where the X's are visible).



← Joined rounds leave a seam.

Continuous rounds →



The spiral

Round Color Key:

- Round 1 → Round 4
- Round 2 → Round 5
- Round 3 → Round 6



First stitch of each round.



Incremental increases:

X means a single stitch

V means an increase

Make the circle larger by adding increases (work two stitches into the same stitch) in an incremental manner (adding the same number of increases per round evenly spaced). More about this on the next page.



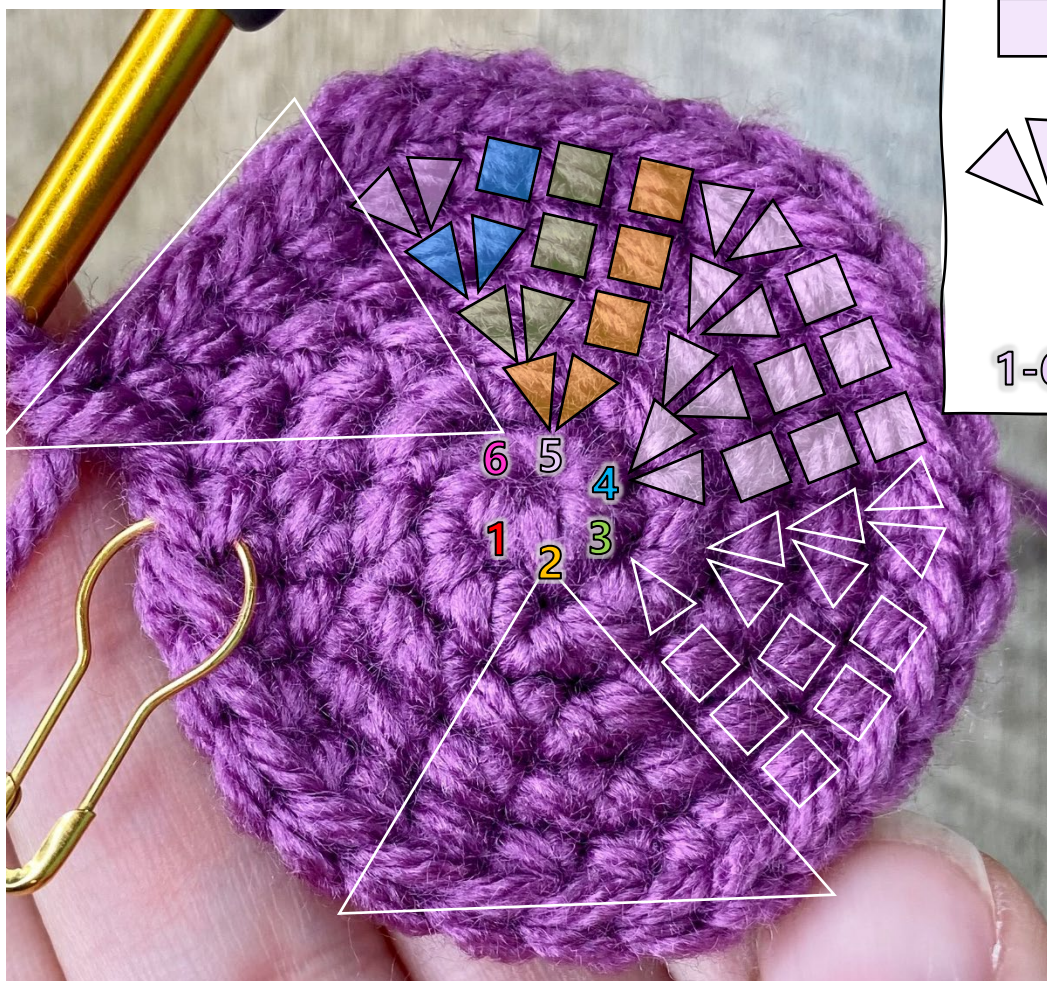
Increase Video

INCREASING IN THE ROUND

An **increase (inc)** is working two stitches into the same stitch of the previous round. For amigurumi single crochet increase is used most often, but this can be done with any standard stitch (half double crochet, double crochet, etc.).

Increasing allows us to change the size and shape of the project. Making incremental increases while working around a circle will increase the diameter of the circle evenly. Adding too many increases will create waves and too few increases will make the sides straight (like the sides of a hat). Adding increases that are not evenly spaced will also change the shape of the project (this is used intentionally in more advanced patterns – ex. creating a forehead).

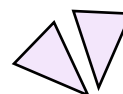
Can you identify the increases in the empty white triangles?



Shape Key:



One Single
Crochet



Increase (2 single
crochets into the
same stitch of the
previous round)

1-6

Stitches of round 1



Decrease Video

DECREASING

To make a decrease (dec) we work through two stitches of the previous round at the same time to make one stitch instead of two. As with increasing, decreases in amigurumi use single crochet most often, but this can be done with any standard stitch (half double crochet, double crochet, etc.).

Decreasing allows us to change the size and shape of the project. Making incremental decreases while working around a circle will decrease the diameter of the circle evenly, allowing us to taper and close the project. Adding decreases that are not evenly spaced will also change the shape of the project (this is used intentionally in more advanced patterns – like creating the toe-end on top of a foot).

Two types of single crochet decrease:

- ★ **Standard Decrease (dec):** insert the hook into the next stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop, insert the hook into the following stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through all 3 loops on the hook. This is used in most crochet projects (such as wearables).
- ★ **Invisible Decrease (inv dec):** Using only the front loops, insert the hook into the next two stitches, yarn under, pull up a loop through both front loops, yarn over, pull through both loops on the hook. This is especially useful in Amigurumi to limit bulk, gaps, and visibility of decreases.



MAKE AN INVISIBLE DECREASE (INV DEC)

Reminder: the front loop is the loop closest to you. Insert the hook under the front loop from the outside of the project.



1. Insert front loop only of next stitch...



2. Insert front loop only of next stitch...



3. Yarn **UNDER**...



4. Pull up a loop through both front loops...



5. Yarn **OVER**...



5. Pull through both loops on the hook.



Amigurumi Color Change Video

AMIGURUMI COLOR CHANGES

Have fun creating unique designs using different colors! To change colors in Amigurumi, pull the new color through in the last yarn over of a stitch. This is frequently done in the last stitch of a round (for stripes). Work over the ends in the next several stitches to secure them. You can adapt this to make spots too!



1. Do not yarn over to complete the stitch.



2. Yarn over with the NEW COLOR.



3. Pull through both loops on the hook.



4. Hold the tails from both colors behind the next stitch.



5. Work through the stitch AND under the tails.



6. Pull up a loop.



7. Complete the stitch, encompassing the tails.



8. Make several stitches over the tails. Cut the old color or leave it to use in another round.



This method will create a seam when changing colors at the end of each round.





AMIGURUMI BALL OR BAT CRAFT

Finished size: about 2"

Hook: 3.5-4mm

Fiber: size 4 yarn

Optional: 12mm eyes, craft felt, hot glue, thread/yarn for face, pins, puff paint

- **Goal:** make a small ball – Use this ball as the base for many different projects: bat, baseball, basketball, Christmas ornaments, round animals, peas, berries, etc.
- **Mastered Skills:** holding the hook, tension, and project; making a slip knot and single crochet stitches
- **Learning Objectives:**
 - Tighten tension
 - **Stitch: X-Stitch** – A modified single crochet (sc). Insert the hook into the next stitch, yarn **UNDER** (pick up the yarn), pull through the stitch, yarn over and pull through 2 loops on the hook.
 - **Magic Circle** – Start the project like a slip knot, but instead of pulling the knot tight, chain 1 and leave the circle open (where you remove your finger). Work the first round into this space; pull the tail tight to close the circle.
 - **Increase (inc)** – Place 2 single crochets into the same stitch from the previous round.
 - **Invisible Decrease (inv dec)** – Insert the hook into the front loops only of the next two stitches, yarn **UNDER**, pull up a loop through both front loops, yarn over, pull through both loops on the hook.
- **Why learn to x-stitch?** The x-stitch creates tighter stitches for stuffed projects. These also have a cleaner appearance than standard single crochet stitches.
- **Why learn magic circle?** Using a magic circle to start a project allows us to pull the beginning hole extra tight so no stuffing shows through.
- **Why learn to increase and invisible decrease?** Increases and decreases allow us to change the size and shape of the piece. Invisible decreases are less noticeable, less bulky, and have smaller gaps than standard decreases.
- **This pattern is worked in continuous rounds without joining.** Mark the first stitch of each round.

Optional: Use the Embroidered Eye Video Tutorial with yarn instead of safety eyes.



- [Small Ball Bat Craft Full Video](#) – Remember to slow the speed and pause as needed. This is a private video and only accessible through the link in this written pattern.

RND	Shorthand	Description
1.	use x-stitches, 6 sc in mc = 6	Starting at the bottom of the ball, using x-stitches, make 6 single crochets into a magic circle = 6



		The tail from the magic circle should be on the backside of your circle – this will be INSIDE the ball.
2.	inc around = 12	Make the circle larger: 2 single crochets (increase) in each stitch around = 12



One single crochet in the first stitch.



TWO single crochets in the first stitch makes an increase.



Round 2 complete.



3.	$(sc, inc)*6 = 18$	Make the circle larger: (one single crochet in next stitch, increase in next stitch) complete (-) 6 times = 18 Increase Color Key 1-2-3-4-5-6 Round 3 complete →	
4.	$(sc 2, inc)*6 = 24$	Make the circle larger: (one single crochet in next 2 stitches, increase in next stitch) complete (-) 6 times = 24 Round 4 complete →	
5.	$(sc 3, inc)*6 = 30$	Make the circle larger: (one single crochet in next 3 stitches, increase in next stitch) complete (-) 6 times = 30 Round 5 complete →	



6.-
11.

sc around =
30 (6 rnds)

Increase the height of the circle for rounds 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11:
One single crochet in each stitch around = 30 (6 rounds total)
Take care not to make any increases and count your stitches.



Round 6 complete:
outside



Round 6 complete: inside
("noodle in the bowl")



Round 6 complete: notice
the rounded shape taking
form



Round 7 complete:
outside



Round 8 complete:
outside



Round 9 complete:
outside



Round 10 complete:
outside



Round 11 complete:
outside



12.

(sc 3, inv
dec)*6 = 24

Start to close the ball:

(one single crochet in next 3 stitches, invisible decrease over next two stitches) complete (-) 6 times = 24

Invisible Decrease:



Insert front loop only of next stitch...



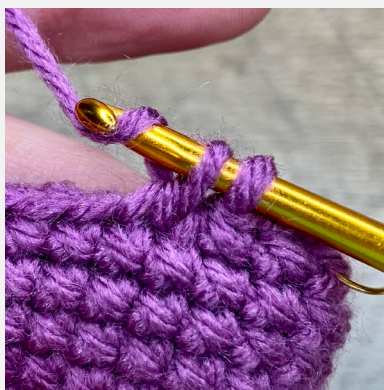
Insert front loop only of next stitch...



Yarn **UNDER**...



Pull up a loop...



Yarn **OVER**...



Pull through both loops on the hook.



Invisible decrease: notice the parts of the front loops from stitches in the previous round.

← Round 12 complete



13.

(sc 2, inv
dec)*6 = 18

Start to close the ball:

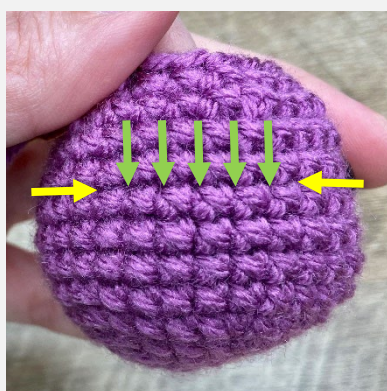
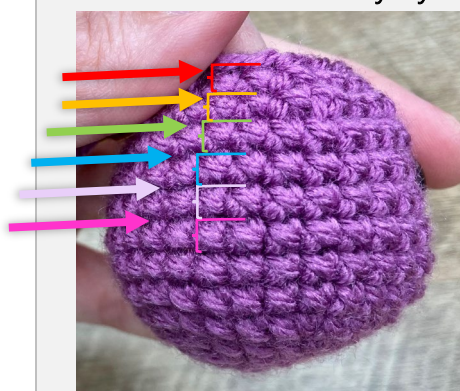
(one single crochet in next 2
stitches, invisible decrease over
next two stitches) complete (-) 6
times = 18

Round 13 complete →



Optional: [Add a Face](#): or [click here to skip to round 14](#)

- Add 12 mm safety eyes on round 9 with 5 holes between the posts

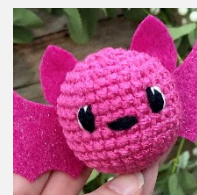


Color Key:

- Round 13
- Round 12
- Round 11
- Round 10
- Round 9
- Round 8

Insert eyes with 5 holes
between the stems.

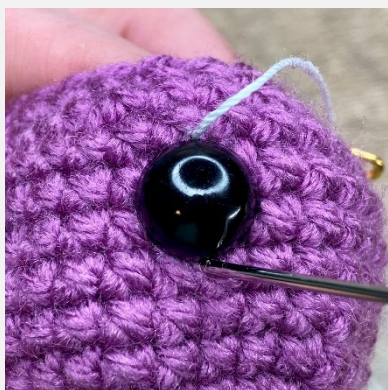
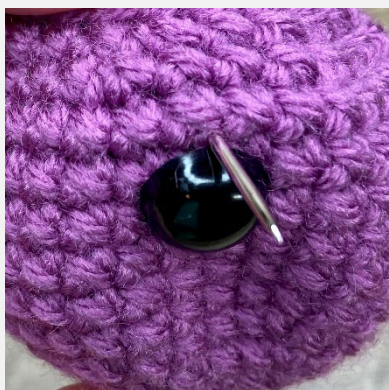
- You can use felt or [embroidery](#) if you do not have safety eyes →
- Add eye whites and eyelashes/brows:



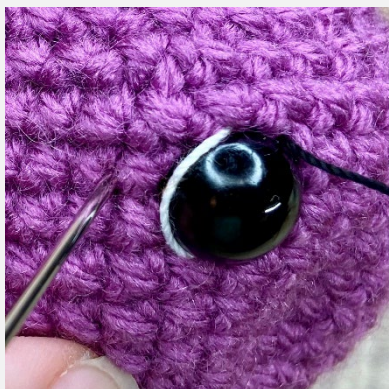
Use size 10 crochet thread,
embroidery floss, or yarn to create
the eyes whites and black
eyelashes/brows, knotting and
securing ends inside the head – I've
used crochet thread here.

Photo instructions on the following
pages....





Use white to create the outside of the eyes.



Use black to create eyelashes (above, left & center) or eyebrows (above, right).

- Add a nose on round 8 between the eyes:



Use yarn to create a nose, knotting and securing the ends inside the head (I did 3 rounds).



Add cheeks using the same technique!



- Add a mouth – [Adding a Mouth Video](#)



Use yarn (pull the strands apart for a thinner fiber), embroidery floss, or crochet thread to create a mouth, knotting and securing the ends inside the head (I used crochet thread).

★ Exit under the right eye, enter down one round and over two stitches.

14.

(sc, inv
dec)*6 = 12
STUFF

Closing the ball:

(one single crochet in next stitch, invisible decrease over next two stitches) complete (-) 6 times = 12 – **STUFF**

Stuffing TIPS: Add small bits at a time, stuffing the outside first by creating a bowl inside the head. This will create a smooth finish to the outside of the ball. Try not to over stuff allowing the stuffing to show through the stitches.



Round 14 complete

15.

inv dec*6 = 6

Closing the ball:

(invisible decrease over next two stitches) complete (-) 6 times = 6

Round 15 complete →



Finish Closing the Ball:

- Cut an 8" tail and thread it onto a tapestry needle.
- Close the top hole: whip stitch around using the front loops only...



Front loop of stitch # 1.



Front loop of stitch #1 & #2.

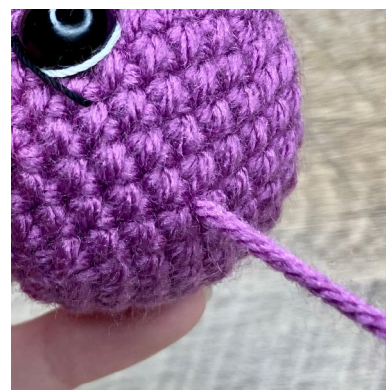


The ball is fully closed.

- Insert the needle in the center hole, hide tail inside the ball.



Insert needle in center.



Exit in a side stitch.



Tie a knot.



Insert in same stitch. Follow a different path, exit on the other side, and cut the yarn.



- The ball is complete!



Side view



Top view

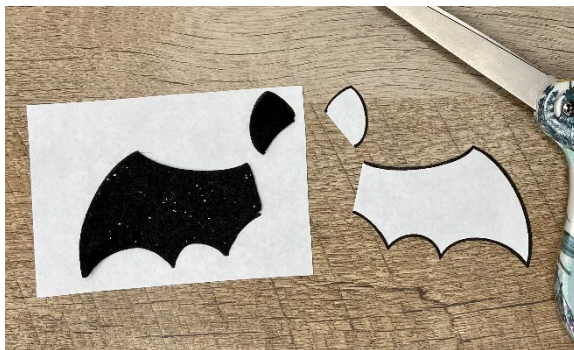


Bottom view

What will you make with your ball?!

- ★ **Make it your own** by free-handing craft felt shapes! Use hot glue or E-6000 to adhere them onto the ball or sew them on. Make wings, eyes, arms, legs, ears, etc.
- ★ **Add a keyring:** use yarn and a tapestry needle to sew a key ring to the top then hide the ends inside the ball as you did after closing it.
- ★ **Make more balls** as ornaments - practicing amigurumi color changes.

Finish the Bat: Sew or use E-6000, hot glue, fabric glue or another appropriate adhesive to adhere the wings and ears to the ball.



1. Print the template on page 24.

Trace and cut out the wings and ears using craft felt (stiff felt works best). For added fun use puff fabric paint to make bone lines on the wings.



2. Position the ears about 4 stitches behind the outside edge of each eye. The bottom corner of the ears should touch the same round as the top of the eyes. Curve them slightly to look natural. Balance them from the front view before gluing or sewing them in place.



3. Position the wings covering rounds 7-9 with 4-5 stitches between them. Balance them from the front view before gluing or sewing them in place.



YOU DID IT!

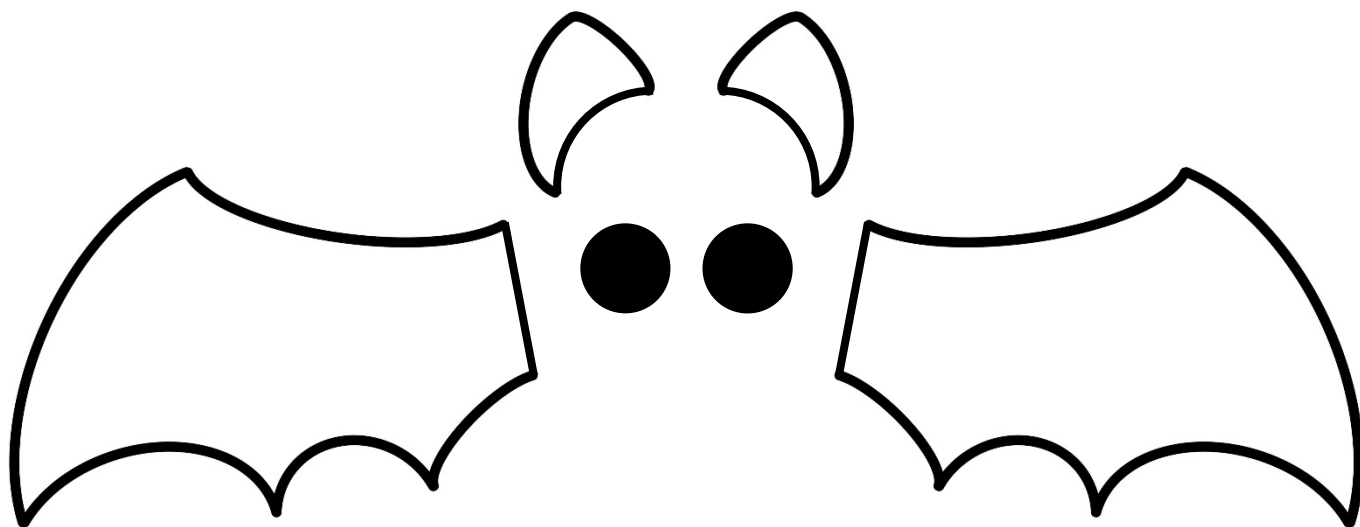
I hope you enjoyed this pattern! I'd love to see what you created and hear your feedback! You can share with me on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Ravelry](#), and [Etsy](#). While you're there, give me a follow, like, review, and share with your friends! Facebook & IG followers get a chance to test new patterns on top of other content!

Remember, you are certainly welcome to sell finished items using this pattern, just credit me as the designer and leave a link to the pattern on your listing/post (ARSerendipityDesigns.Etsy.com or Ravelry.com/stores/ARSerendipityDesigns) or tag me @ARSerendipityDesigns.

You can find more of my patterns on [Ravelry](#) and [Etsy](#).

THANKS FOR CHOOSING MY PATTERN!





Small Ball or Bat Pattern - @ARSerendipityDesigns

Size 4 yarn, E/3.5mm-F/4mm hook, poly-fill, 12mm safety eyes, craft felt, adhesive

RND Instructions

- | | | | |
|--------|------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| 1. | sc 6 in mc = 6 | 14. | (sc, inv dec)*6 – stuff = 12 |
| 2. | inc*6 = 12 | 15. | inv dec*6 = 6 |
| 3. | (sc, inc)*6 = 18 | | |
| 4. | (sc 2, inc)*6 = 24 | | |
| 5. | (sc 3, inc)*6 = 30 | | |
| 6.-11. | sc 30 = 30 (6 rnds) | | |
| 12. | (sc 3, inv dec)*6 = 24 | | |
| 13. | (sc 2, inv dec)*6 = 18 | | |

Add face:

Eyes: rnd 9, 5 holes between stems

Nose: rnd 8, centered between eyes

Mouth: smirk under bat's right eye – down one rnd, over 2 sts

Finish:

FLO whip stitch to close head

Cut and glue/sew on ears and wings

- Ears: about 4 sts behind each eye
- Wings: covering rnds 7-9, 4-5 sts between them

