Little Crochet Snowman in a Mug

Free Amigurumi Pattern



Crochet a red mug from the base up, then grow a white snowman straight out of a ring of loops left inside it, and give him a Santa hat with holly, a striped scarf and snowflakes on his mug. The mug and the snowman are one piece, so nothing has to be sewn on to hold him in. In DK cotton on a 3 mm hook he stands about 14.5 cm (5.75 in) tall to the top of his head, in a mug about 8 cm (3.25 in) across.

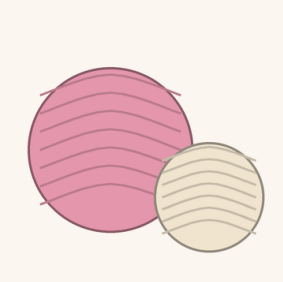
This is our own design. A script checks every round's stitch count against the round before it, and the sizes are estimates worked out from a gauge, so the first thing to check is your own mug base against the size table.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

The snowman at a glance

What	This snowman
Pieces	Mug with the snowman worked onto it, handle, nose, Santa hat, pompom, 2 holly leaves, scarf
Stitches	Magic ring, single crochet, increase, invisible decrease, slip stitch; the holly adds hdc, dc and picots
Yarn	DK (#3) cotton in red, white, green, orange and black, plus a little pink
Hook	3 mm, smaller than a DK label asks for, so the stuffing does not show through
Construction	Worked in a spiral; the snowman starts from the back loops of one mug round
Face	Eyes, smile and cheeks embroidered; the nose is crocheted and sewn on all round
Skill level	You can work single crochet in the round and increase and decrease; this page explains the rest

What you need



DK (#3) cotton yarn



A 3 mm crochet hook



A blunt tapestry needle

Every tool our patterns use is on the Crochet essentials (https://crochetbabygifts.com/essentials/) page.

- DK (#3) cotton yarn in red (mug, handle, hat and half the scarf), white (snowman, hat brim, pompom and snowflakes), green (holly and half the scarf), orange (nose) and black (eyes and smile). A little pink for the cheeks is optional. Each colour fits in one 50 g ball. Our estimate is about 95 m of red, 70 m of white, 10 m of green and 2 m of orange, plus a few metres of black for the face, and a 50 g ball of a DK cotton such as Paintbox Yarns Cotton DK holds 125 m.
- A 3 mm crochet hook. The hook size chart (https://crochetbabygifts.com/crochet-hook-size-chart/) gives the US letters near it.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

- Polyester toy stuffing.
- A blunt tapestry needle, scissors, and a few pins or locking stitch markers for marking where things go.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

Why the snowman grows out of the mug

Mug round 24 is worked into the front loops only. That leaves the 60 back loops of round 23 free, as a ring inside the mug three rounds below the rim. The white yarn starts in those loops, so the snowman is joined to the mug all the way round, the rim stands up round him like a real mug, and there is no seam to sew or to come undone. Two numbers have to agree for this to work: the 60 loops in the ring and the 60 stitches of the snowman's first round.

The second number that decides the rest is the head. It is 54 stitches round at its widest, and the Santa hat opens to 60, so the hat slips over the head and the white brim stands out a little, the way a hat brim should.

Sizes

Piece	Size (estimate)
Mug and snowman, to the top of the head	about 14.5 cm (5.75 in) tall
Mug	about 8 cm (3.25 in) across, about 6.5 cm (2.5 in) tall
Head	about 7 cm (2.75 in) across
Hat	about 10.5 cm (4 in) from brim to tip, before the tip folds over
Scarf	about 26.5 cm (10.5 in) long

These are worked out, not measured: from the gauge below and the stitch count of every round. If your mug base comes out bigger or smaller than the table, every other piece will grow or shrink with it, so the snowman still fits his mug and his hat still fits his head.

Made for a baby

Everything on this snowman is crochet or embroidery. There are no safety eyes, beads, buttons, wire, card, glue or pipe cleaners, the parts that most snowman toys use and that a baby can pull off or bite through. Four rules keep it safe to hand over:

- Sew every separate piece on all the way round. US toy rules for children under 3 test small parts in a cylinder 3.17 cm (1¼ in) across. Here the nose is about 1.5 cm long and the pompom about 2.5 cm across, so both would fit in it, and a holly leaf folds small enough to. None of them may come off: sew round the whole edge of each one, through the snowman, twice.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

- Pull-test it before you give it. Toys sold for babies of 18 months and under must survive a 10 lb (4.5 kg) pull on every seam and every attached part. Grip each piece, or hook a luggage scale onto it, and pull up to that. If anything moves, sew it again. This is a home version of that test, not the official method.
- Fix the scarf so it cannot make a loop. It is sewn to the neck at the back and through the crossing at the front, so only two tails, about 4.5 cm each, hang free.
- Keep it out of the cot. Soft toys stay out of a baby's sleep space for the first year. This is a toy for awake, watched play, or a shelf decoration for a first Christmas.

A handmade gift is not tested or certified the way a shop toy is. If you sell the snowman, the toy safety rules where you sell it apply to you in full.

Gauge and abbreviations

Gauge: about 24 single crochet and 24 rounds to 10 cm (4 in), worked in the round on a 3 mm hook. We have not measured this on the snowman yet. No yarn maker publishes an amigurumi gauge for DK on a 3 mm hook, so this is a designer's published one, and every size on this page is worked out from it.

The quick check is the mug base: after round 10 it should be as wide as the mug in the size table. If yours is bigger or smaller, every piece changes in the same proportion and the snowman still fits his mug. To get closer to the table, change your hook by half a size and work the base again.

US crochet terms throughout. The UK name is in brackets.

- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work the first round into that loop, then pull the tail to close the hole.
- ch: chain. sl st: slip stitch.
- sc: single crochet (UK: double crochet).
- inc: increase, 2 sc in the same stitch.
- dec: invisible decrease. Put the hook through the front loop of the next stitch and the front loop of the one after it, yarn over and pull through both front loops, then yarn over and pull through the 2 loops on the hook. It hides much better than an ordinary decrease on a round head.
- hdc: half double crochet (UK: half treble). dc: double crochet (UK: treble).
- Back loops only / front loops only: work into just the one loop of the stitch that is furthest from you or nearest to you.
- Picot: ch 3, then sl st in the 3rd ch from the hook. It makes a small point.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

- French knot: bring the needle up, wrap the yarn round it 3 times, and put it back down right next to where it came up, holding the wraps until they tighten into a knot.
- [ ] 5 times: work everything in the brackets 5 times. [60 sts]: the stitches you should have at the end of that round.

Work every piece in a continuous spiral without joining the rounds. Put a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up as you go.

Watch the techniques

Watch the video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRmZzbN7ios

This video makes a different snowman: he stands on his own with no mug, in super bulky yarn on a 5 mm hook, so his rounds are not the rounds on this page. It is worth watching for the moves the two snowmen share:

- The invisible decrease at 8:07, the decrease used all through steps 7 and 9.
- Stuffing as you close, while the body is made, from 10:37.
- A crocheted carrot nose at 21:07, like the nose in step 6.
- A hat from 24:54 and a scarf from 32:26.

The video uses 14 mm plastic safety eyes and 6 mm safety-eye buttons. For a baby, embroider the eyes instead, as in step 8: see Made for a baby and the safety checklist (https://crochetbabygifts.com/handmade-baby-gift-safety-checklist/).

Video: Wonder Crochet, "Easy Crochet Snowman Tutorial: Perfect Winter Amigurumi Project" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRmZzbN7ios), 2023, 36 minutes. A different design; the pattern on this page is our own.

The pattern

1. Mug base

In red, work flat in a spiral.

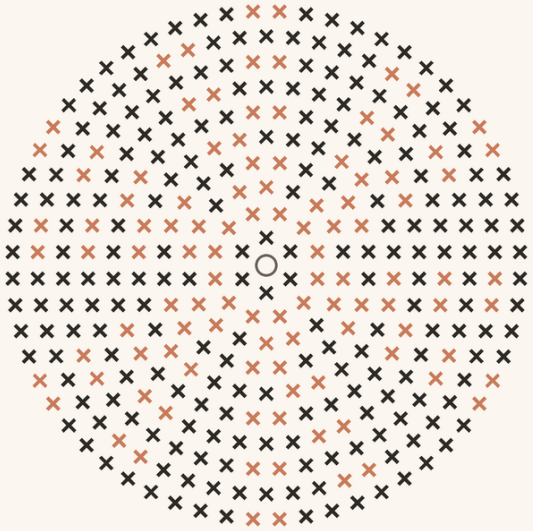
- Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. [6 sts]
- Rnd 2: inc in each st. [12 sts]
- Rnd 3: [sc 1, inc] 6 times. [18 sts]
- Rnd 4: sc 1, inc, [sc 2, inc] 5 times, sc 1. [24 sts]
- Rnd 5: [sc 3, inc] 6 times. [30 sts]

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

- Rnd 6: sc 2, inc, [sc 4, inc] 5 times, sc 2. [36 sts]
- Rnd 7: [sc 5, inc] 6 times. [42 sts]
- Rnd 8: sc 3, inc, [sc 6, inc] 5 times, sc 3. [48 sts]
- Rnd 9: [sc 7, inc] 6 times. [54 sts]
- Rnd 10: sc 4, inc, [sc 8, inc] 5 times, sc 4. [60 sts]

The even rounds start part-way into a repeat, so the increases do not stack on top of each other and the base stays round instead of turning into a hexagon. Lay it on the table now: it should lie flat.

1 **Base, rounds 1 to 10: 6 sc in a magic ring, growing to 60 sts. The orange crosses are the increases.**



Rnd 1: 6 sts
Rnd 2: 12 sts
Rnd 3: 18 sts
Rnd 4: 24 sts
Rnd 5: 30 sts
Rnd 6: 36 sts
Rnd 7: 42 sts
Rnd 8: 48 sts
Rnd 9: 54 sts
Rnd 10: 60 sts

× sc × increase

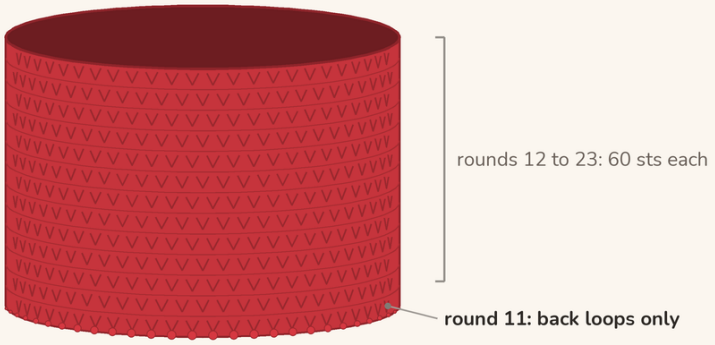
2. Mug sides

- Rnd 11: in back loops only, sc in each st. [60 sts]
- Rnds 12–23: sc in each st. [60 sts]

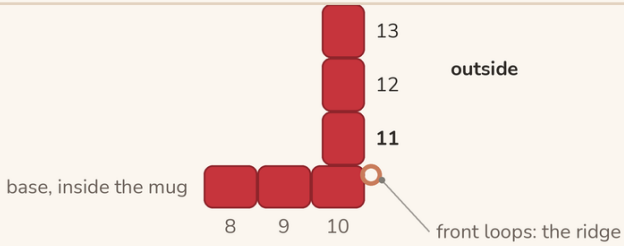
Round 11 leaves a line of front loops round the edge of the base, which makes a sharp corner so the mug stands on a flat bottom.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

1 **Round 11 in back loops only, then rounds 12 to 23, 60 sts in every round.**



2 **Cut through the corner: the front loops stay outside as a ridge.**



3. Rim

- Rnd 24: in front loops only, sc in each st. [60 sts]
- Rnds 25–26: sc in each st. [60 sts]
- Rnd 27: sl st in each st. [60 sts]

Fasten off and weave the tail in. Look inside the mug: just below the rim there is a ring of 60 unworked back loops, the ones round 24 left free. The snowman starts there in step 7, so do not catch those loops when you weave in tails.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

1 **Rounds 24 to 27, the near side cut away: the ring of 60 unworked back loops inside the rim.**



2 **Round 24 goes into the front loops, so the back loops below it stay free.**



4. Handle

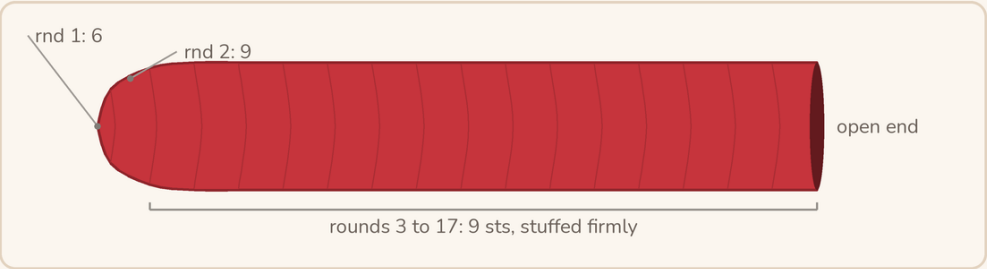
In red.

- Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. [6 sts]
- Rnd 2: [sc 1, inc] 3 times. [9 sts]
- Rnds 3–17: sc in each st. [9 sts]

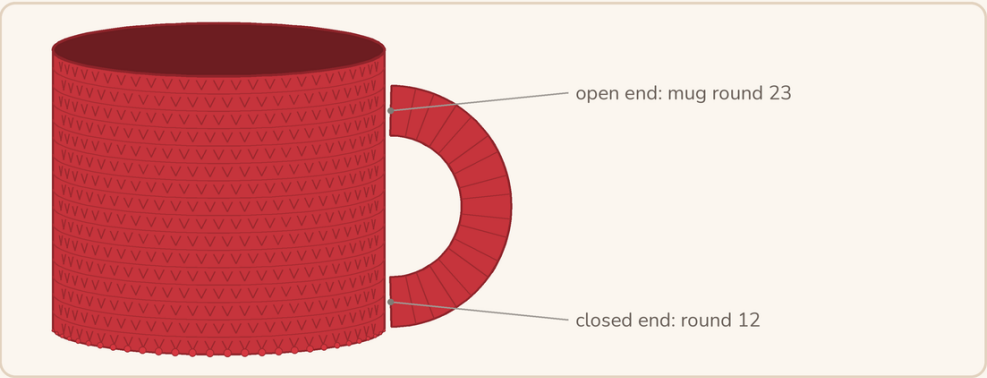
Fasten off with a 30 cm (12 in) tail. Stuff the handle firmly as you go, right to the open end. Pin it to the mug in a C shape, with the open top end at mug round 23 and the closed bottom end at mug round 12, both on the same column of stitches. Sew round each end through the mug wall, going round twice. The handle holds its curve because both ends are fixed and it is stuffed firmly; it has no wire in it.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

1 **Handle: 6 sc in a ring, 9 sts in round 2, then even to round 17. Stuff it firmly.**



2 **A C shape: open end at mug round 23, closed end at round 12, on one column.**



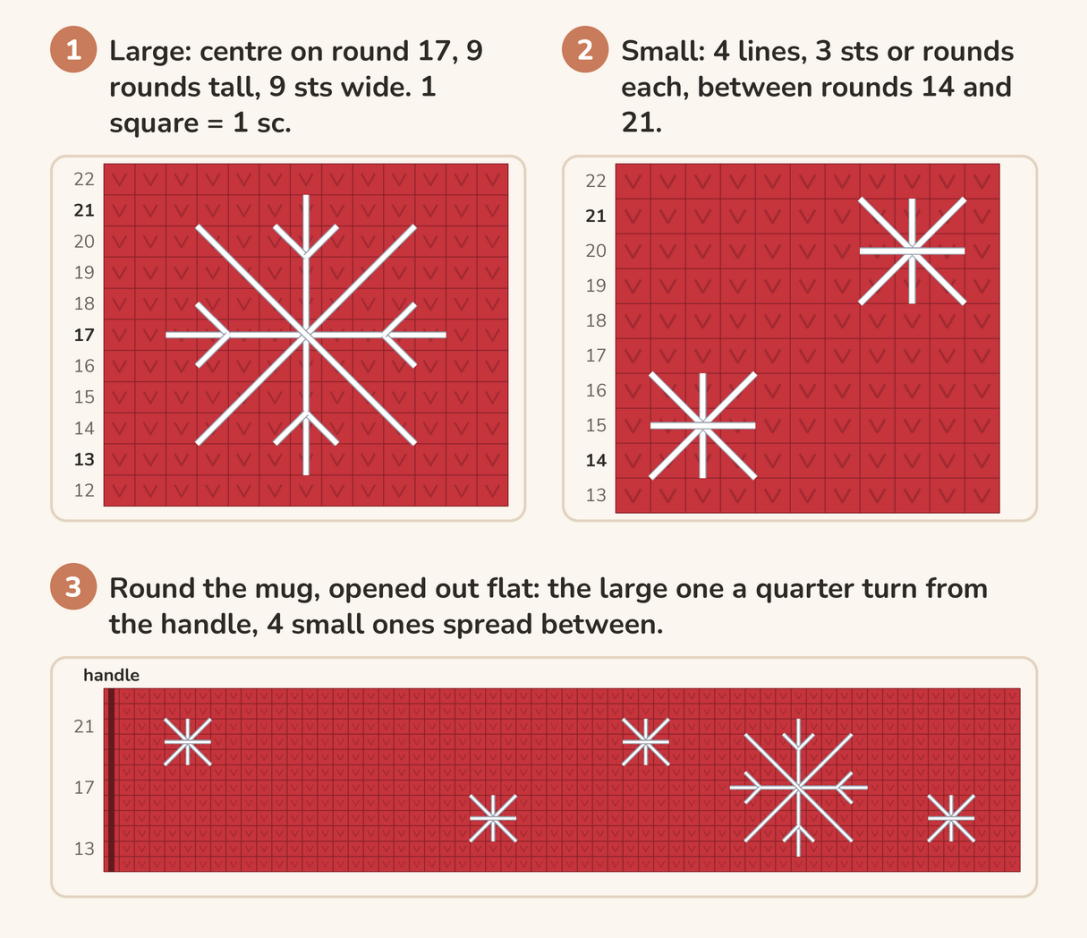
5. Snowflakes

Embroider the snowflakes now, while the mug is still open and you can reach inside it. Use white yarn and work every line as a straight stitch from one gap between stitches to another, so each snowflake is drawn on the grid of the crochet, one stitch to one square.

- One large snowflake. Turn the mug so the handle is on your right. The large snowflake goes on the side facing you, its centre on round 17. Make a vertical line from round 13 to round 21, a horizontal line 9 stitches wide through the centre, and two diagonal lines that each run 3 stitches and 3 rounds out from the centre in both directions. At 2 stitches from the end of each vertical and horizontal line, add a small V: two short stitches, each about 1 stitch long, that open out towards the end of the line.
- Four small snowflakes spread round the rest of the mug between rounds 14 and 21: four lines crossing in the middle, each 3 stitches or 3 rounds long: one up and down, one across and two diagonals.

Keep the stitches firm but not tight, so the red fabric does not pucker, and tie every tail off inside the mug.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.



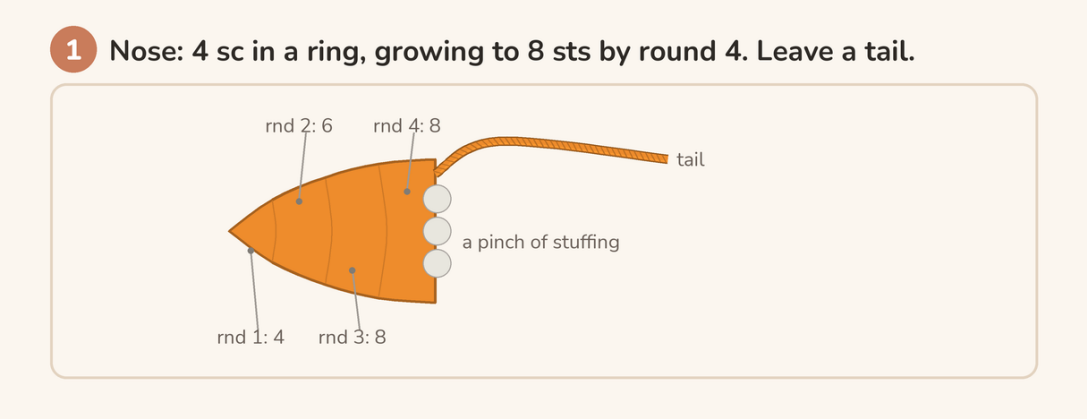
6. Nose

In orange.

- Rnd 1: 4 sc in a magic ring. [4 sts]
- Rnd 2: [sc 1, inc] 2 times. [6 sts]
- Rnd 3: [sc 2, inc] 2 times. [8 sts]
- Rnd 4: sc in each st. [8 sts]

Fasten off with a 25 cm (10 in) tail. Push a pinch of stuffing into the nose. It is sewn on in step 8.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.



7. The snowman

Optional, for a snowman that will only be a decoration: before you start, drop a card circle the size of the mug base into the mug so it sits flatter. Leave it out for a baby.

Join white with a sl st in any back loop of the ring left free by mug round 24.

- Rnd 1: sc in each back loop left free by mug round 24. [60 sts]
- Rnds 2–6: sc in each st. [60 sts]
- Rnd 7: sc 4, dec, [sc 8, dec] 5 times, sc 4. [54 sts]
- Rnd 8: [sc 7, dec] 6 times. [48 sts]
- Rnd 9: sc 3, dec, [sc 6, dec] 5 times, sc 3. [42 sts]
- Rnd 10: sc in each st. [42 sts]
- Rnd 11: [sc 6, inc] 6 times. [48 sts]
- Rnd 12: sc 3, inc, [sc 7, inc] 5 times, sc 4. [54 sts]
- Rnds 13–20: sc in each st. [54 sts]
- Rnd 21: [sc 7, dec] 6 times. [48 sts]
- Rnd 22: sc 3, dec, [sc 6, dec] 5 times, sc 3. [42 sts]
- Rnd 23: [sc 5, dec] 6 times. [36 sts]
- Rnd 24: sc 2, dec, [sc 4, dec] 5 times, sc 2. [30 sts]

Stuff now, through the opening: first the mug, pressing the stuffing down into the base until it is flat and firm, then the body, then the head. A firmly stuffed mug is what keeps the toy standing.

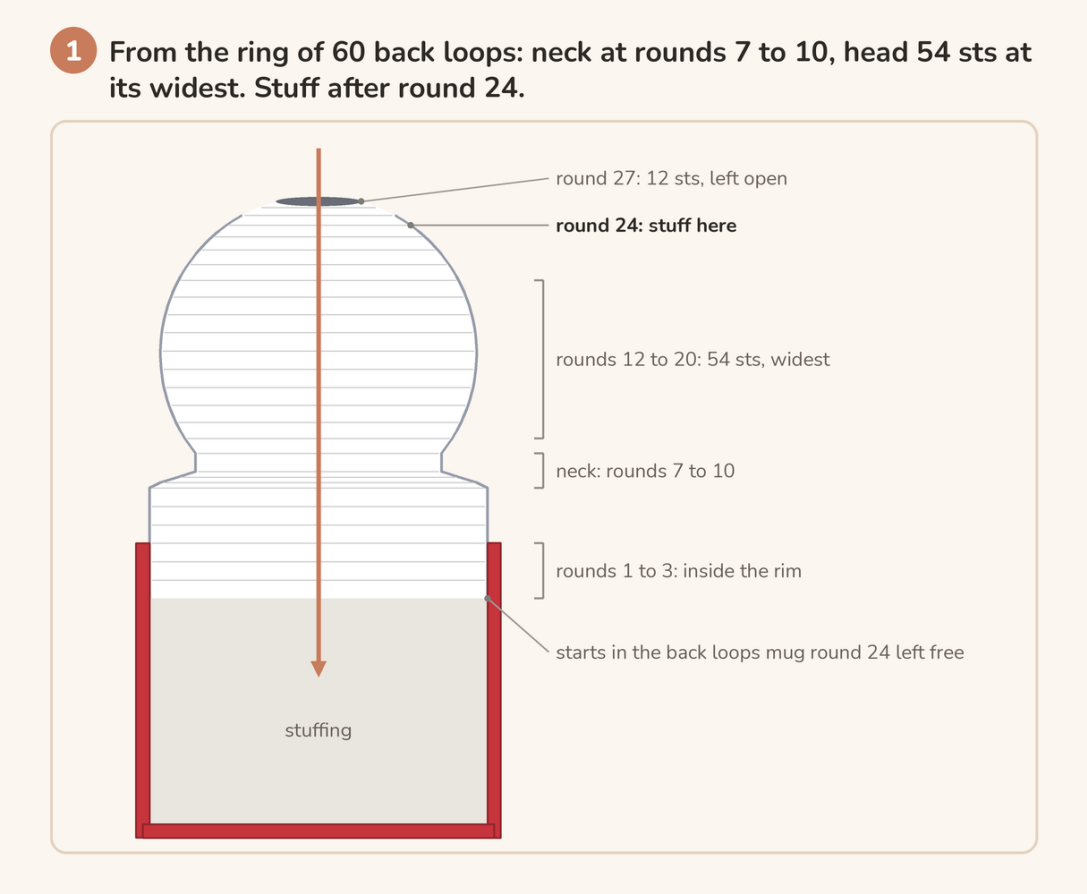
- Rnd 25: [sc 3, dec] 6 times. [24 sts]

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

- Rnd 26: sc 1, dec, [sc 2, dec] 5 times, sc 1. [18 sts]
- Rnd 27: [sc 1, dec] 6 times. [12 sts]

Top up the stuffing in the head. Do not close the hole yet: cut the yarn with a 30 cm (12 in) tail and pull the loop up so it cannot unravel. The face is sewn through this hole.

Rounds 1 to 3 of the snowman sit inside the rim. Rounds 7 to 10 pull him in to a neck, which is where the scarf goes, and rounds 11 to 27 make the head.



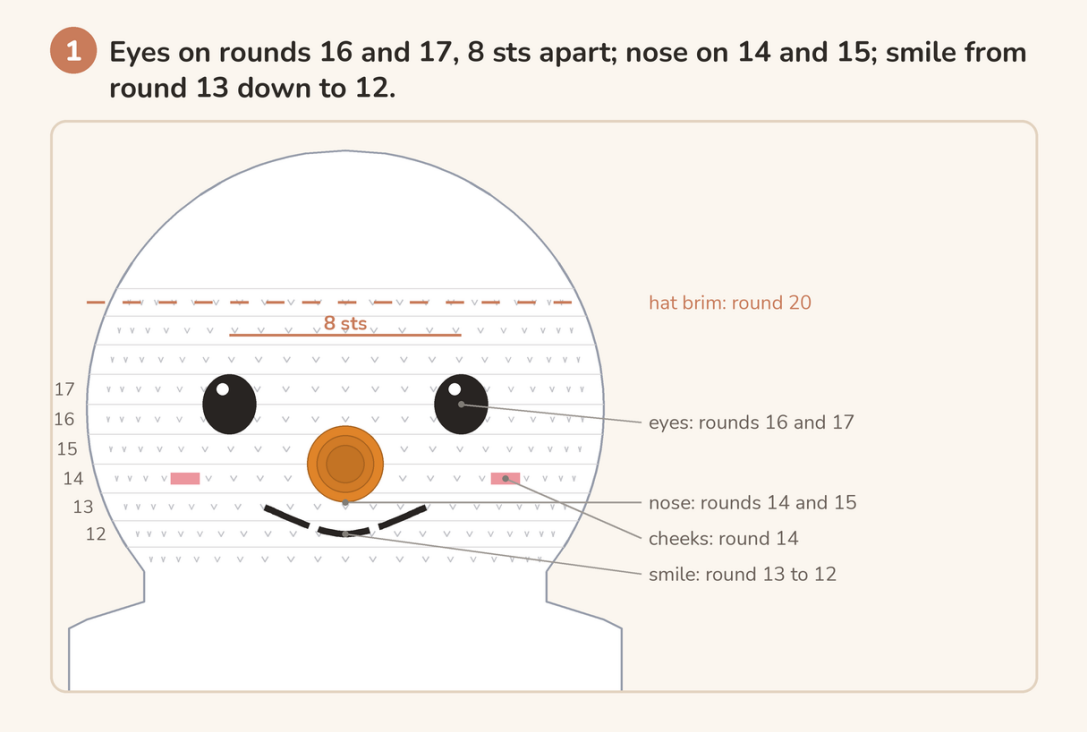
8. Face

The face goes on the same side as the large snowflake, so the handle is on your right as you look at him. Mark everything with pins before you sew, and look at it from a step back. Start and finish every thread at the open hole on top of the head, so all the knots end up inside.

- Eyes: with black yarn, place the eyes on snowman rounds 16 and 17, with their centres 8 stitches apart. Fill each eye with 4 or 5 straight stitches side by side over 2 stitches and both rounds, so it is a small solid oval. Add one tiny white stitch at the top of each eye for a highlight.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

- Nose: pin it centred between the eyes, on rounds 14 and 15, pointing straight out. Sew all the way round its open edge, through the head, going round twice.
- Smile: with black yarn, a curve of 3 back stitches that starts 3 stitches to one side of the nose on round 13, dips to round 12 under the nose, and ends 3 stitches to the other side on round 13.
- Cheeks (optional): with pink yarn, 2 short straight stitches on round 14, one stitch outside each eye.

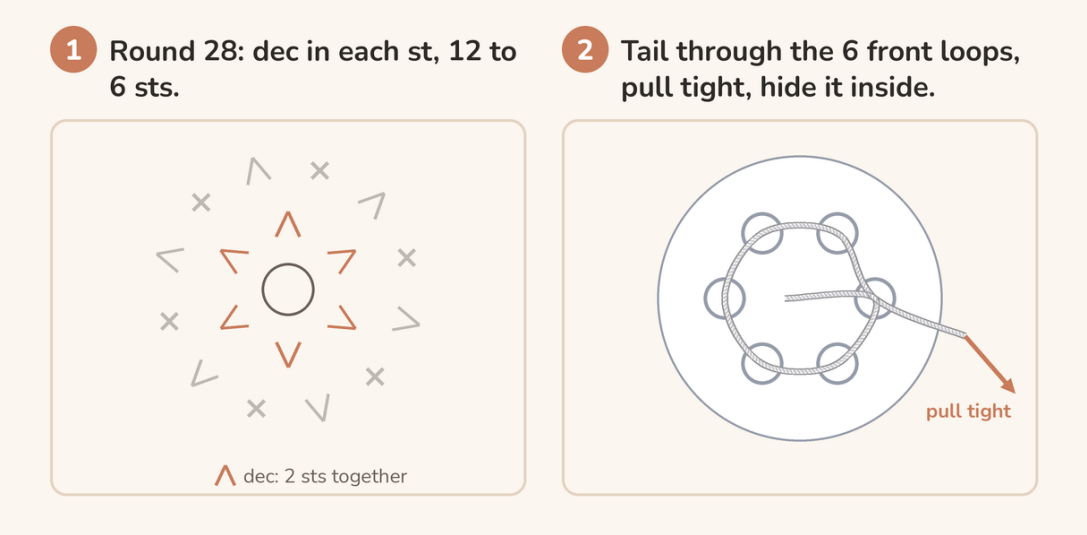


9. Close the head

- Rnd 28: dec in each st. [6 sts]

Fasten off. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull tight, and push the needle down through the head to hide the tail.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.



10. Santa hat

In red, from the tip down.

- Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. [6 sts]
- Rnds 2–3: sc in each st. [6 sts]
- Rnd 4: [sc 2, inc] 2 times. [8 sts]
- Rnd 5: sc in each st. [8 sts]
- Rnd 6: [sc 3, inc] 2 times. [10 sts]
- Rnd 7: sc in each st. [10 sts]
- Rnd 8: [sc 1, inc] 5 times. [15 sts]
- Rnd 9: sc in each st. [15 sts]
- Rnd 10: [sc 2, inc] 5 times. [20 sts]
- Rnd 11: [sc 3, inc] 5 times. [25 sts]
- Rnd 12: sc in each st. [25 sts]
- Rnd 13: [sc 4, inc] 5 times. [30 sts]
- Rnd 14: sc 2, inc, [sc 5, inc] 4 times, sc 3. [35 sts]
- Rnd 15: [sc 6, inc] 5 times. [40 sts]
- Rnd 16: sc 3, inc, [sc 7, inc] 4 times, sc 4. [45 sts]
- Rnd 17: [sc 8, inc] 5 times. [50 sts]
- Rnd 18: sc 4, inc, [sc 9, inc] 4 times, sc 5. [55 sts]

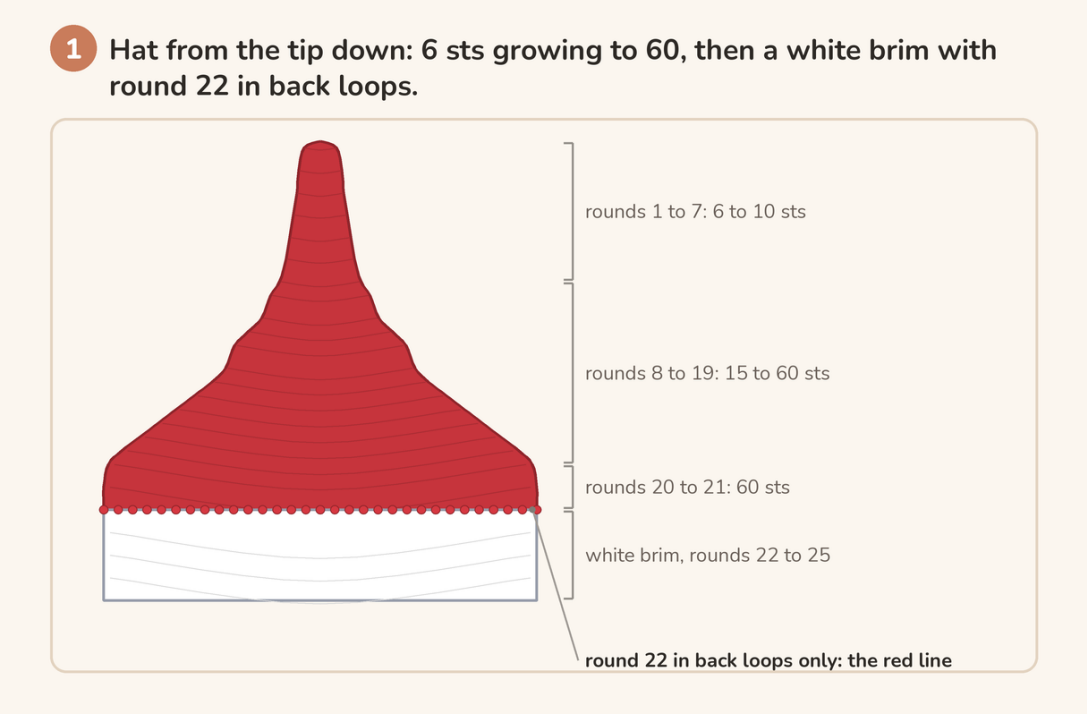
You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

- Rnd 19: [sc 10, inc] 5 times. [60 sts]
- Rnds 20–21: sc in each st. [60 sts]

Change to white for the brim.

- Rnd 22: in back loops only, sc in each st. [60 sts]
- Rnds 23–25: sc in each st. [60 sts]

Fasten off with a 50 cm (20 in) tail for sewing the hat on. The narrow rounds at the tip grow slowly so the tip is long and soft enough to fold over; the wide rounds grow fast so the hat opens out over the head. Round 22 leaves a neat line where the red meets the white.



11. Pompom

In white.

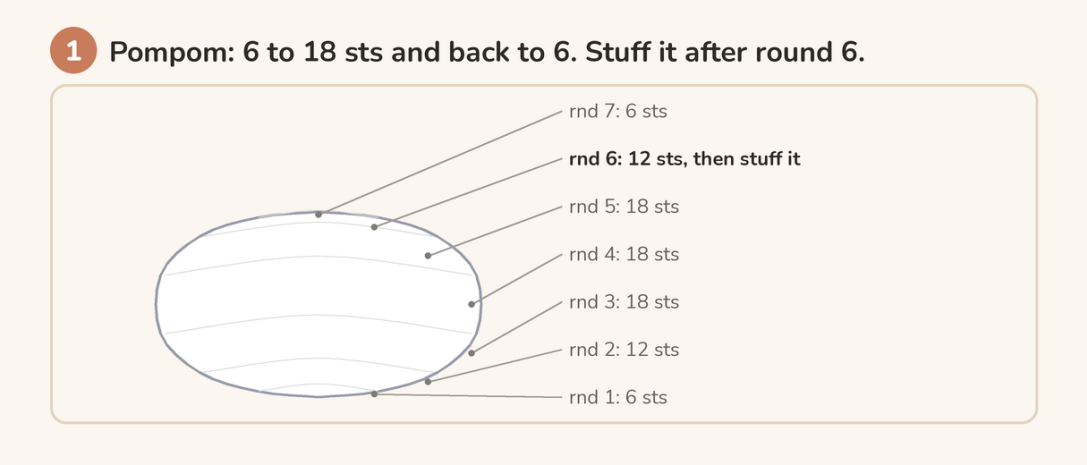
- Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. [6 sts]
- Rnd 2: inc in each st. [12 sts]
- Rnd 3: [sc 1, inc] 6 times. [18 sts]
- Rnds 4–5: sc in each st. [18 sts]
- Rnd 6: [sc 1, dec] 6 times. [12 sts]

Stuff it firmly.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

- Rnd 7: dec in each st. [6 sts]

Fasten off with a 25 cm (10 in) tail and close the hole as you did the head. A crocheted pompom has no loose fibres to pull out, which a wrapped yarn pompom does.



12. Holly leaves and berries

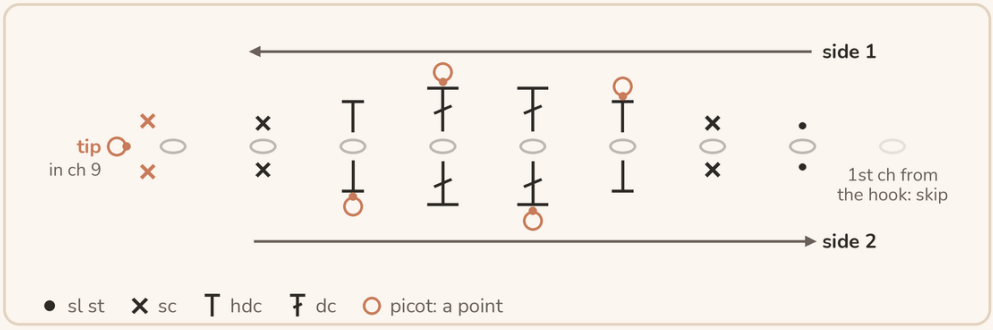
Make 2 leaves. In green, ch 9. Side 1, working in the back bump of each ch from the 2nd ch from the hook: sl st in the next ch, sc in the next ch, hdc in the next ch, picot, dc in each of the next 2 ch, picot, hdc in the next ch, sc in the next ch. Tip: in the last ch, sc, picot, sc. Side 2, along the other side of the chain: sc in the next ch, hdc in the next ch, picot, dc in each of the next 2 ch, picot, hdc in the next ch, sc in the next ch, sl st in the next ch. [16 sts, 5 points] Fasten off with a 20 cm (8 in) tail.

The tall stitches make the leaf widest in the middle, and the five picots are the prickly points of a holly leaf. If the leaves curl, hold a steam iron just above them for a few seconds through a damp cloth, without pressing, and let them dry flat.

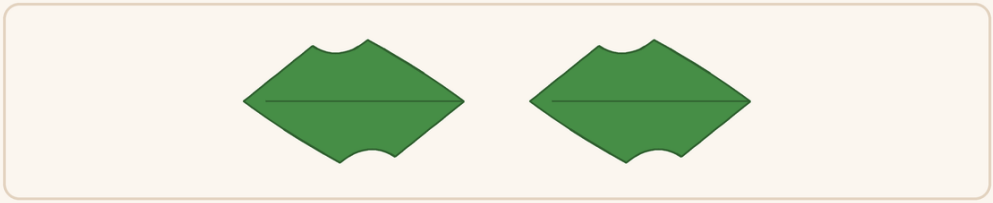
The berries are French knots in red yarn, made in step 14 once the leaves are on the hat, so there are no tiny separate pieces to sew on.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

1 Ch 9, then side 1, the tip and side 2: 16 sts and 5 picot points.



2 Make 2. The berries are French knots, added in step 14.



13. Scarf

Use red and green, and change colour every 2 rows. Do not cut the yarn you are not using: carry it up the side of the scarf.

In red, ch 5. Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch to the end. Turn. [4 sts]

Rows 2–64: ch 1, sc in each st, turn. [4 sts] Change colour at the end of every second row: work the last pull-through of the last stitch with the new colour.

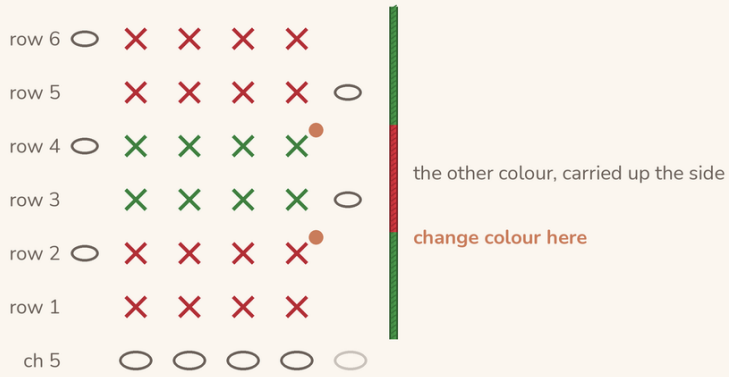
Fasten off and weave in both tails. The 64 rows make 32 stripes.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

1 **Scarf: 4 sts wide, 64 rows, a new colour every 2 rows: 32 stripes.**



2 **Rows 1 to 6: the new colour on the last pull-through; carry the other up the side.**



14. Put it together

1. Hat. Put a little stuffing in the wide part of the hat so it keeps its shape, but leave the narrow tip empty. Put it on the head with the lower edge of the brim along snowman round 20 all the way round, tilted slightly back so the brim clears the eyes. Pin it, then sew the lower edge of the brim to the head with the white tail, one stitch in every stitch.
2. Tip and pompom. Sew the pompom to the tip of the hat. Fold the narrow end of the hat over to one side and down until the pompom reaches the brim, and tack it to the side of the hat with 2 or 3 stitches, so the pompom sits beside the brim.
3. Holly. Sew the two leaves to the red part of the hat just above the brim, on the side away from the pompom, their bases touching and their tips spreading apart. Sew all the way round each leaf, not only at its base. Make 3 French knots in red where the two leaves meet.
4. Scarf. Wrap the scarf round the neck at snowman round 9 and cross the ends at the front on one side. Sew it on: along its top edge all round the back of the neck, and through both layers and into the snowman where it crosses. Only the two tails hang free, and the scarf cannot be pulled into a loop.
5. Weave in every tail and pull it inside the toy.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.



Other looks: a green mug, sleepy eyes, a white handle, a bordered scarf

Some of our pictures of this snowman show other versions. All of them use the same rounds as above.

- Green mug with a heart. Work the mug and the handle in green instead of red, and keep the hat red. The mug and handle take about 65 m, so this version needs about 35 m of red and 75 m of green. Leave out the snowflakes in step 5 and embroider one white heart instead, on the side that faces you with the handle on your right. The stitch facing you on round 17 is the centre. Fill these squares of the crochet grid with white straight stitches worked up and down, one stitch to one square:

- round 20: the 2 stitches either side of the centre stitch, leaving the centre stitch empty, so the top has two bumps - rounds 19 and 18: 7 stitches, the centre stitch and 3 either side - round 17: 5 stitches - round 16: 3 stitches - round 15: the centre stitch alone, the point of the heart

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

- Closed, smiling eyes. In step 8, instead of the solid ovals, back stitch a small arch for each eye with black yarn, over 3 stitches and with the same centres 8 stitches apart. Each arch starts on round 16, rises to round 17 over its middle stitch, and comes back down to round 16. The nose, smile and cheeks stay as written.
- A white handle. Work the handle in step 4 in white instead of red. It moves a few metres from the red ball to the white one, and both still fit in one ball each.
- A red scarf with green edges. Work all 64 rows of step 13 in red. Then join green at a corner and work 1 round of sc all the way round the scarf, with 3 sc in each corner, and fasten off. It uses a few metres more red and about the same green as the striped scarf.

If something goes wrong

The mug base curls up like a bowl. Your rounds are taller than your stitches are wide. Work the base again with a hook half a size bigger, and change back to the 3 mm hook for round 11.

The mug base ripples at the edge. The opposite: work the base with a hook half a size smaller.

You can see stuffing between the stitches. The fabric is too open. Go down half a hook size. If you wrap the yarn under the hook rather than over it when you pull up a loop, your single crochet will look like small x shapes and sit tighter; either way works as long as you keep to one.

The snowman leans to one side. The mug was not stuffed evenly. Push more stuffing into the low side of the mug through the head before you close it, and press the base flat on the table.

The hat will not go over the head, or slips down over the eyes. Count the hat's last round. It needs 60 stitches over a 54-stitch head. If it is still too loose, sew the brim on a round higher.

The handle sags. It needs more stuffing. Open the top end, add stuffing, and sew it back on.

Frequently asked questions

Is it safe to give to a baby? It is designed for it: the eyes, mouth and berries are embroidered, there is no wire, card, button or bead in it, and the pompom is crocheted. You still have to sew every piece on firmly and check it before you give it. See made for a baby.

Why is the nose crocheted, not a button or a plastic nose? A button or a plastic nose is a hard small part that a baby can pull or bite off. A crocheted nose sewn round its whole edge is part of the toy, and it still reads as a carrot from across the room.

Can I use acrylic instead of cotton? Yes. Use DK acrylic with the same 3 mm hook. Our cotton, acrylic and bamboo guide (https://crochetbabygifts.com/cotton-vs-acrylic-vs-bamboo-yarn-for-baby-items/) compares them for baby items.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.

Can I make it bigger? Use a thicker yarn and a bigger hook with the same counts: everything grows together, so the snowman still fits his mug. A worsted (#4) yarn on a 3.5 mm hook makes a noticeably bigger snowman.

How long does it take? It is about 4,000 stitches, plus the embroidery. Most people will need a few evenings.

You may make and sell what you crochet from this pattern. Please do not republish the pattern.