



Baby beaver

a free crochet pattern by Kati Gálusz



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These baby beavers work up fast and require only small amounts of yarn and little sewing, but still have cute details like a textured stitch used for the tail, and tiny toes giving a webbed look to their rear feet.

Size

About 11cm (4 ¼") long if made with worsted weight yarn and 3.5mm hook..

Yarn

The pattern was originally designed for worsted weight yarn, but you could use any weight as long as you adjust hook size (and eye size).

Approximate yarn requirement:

- Light brown: 18m/ 20yd
(Red Heart Soft Toast // Caron Simply Soft Taupe)
- Dark brown: 6m / 7yd
(Red Heart Soft Chocolate // Patons Canadiana Timber)

Please note that yarn thickness varies a lot even within the same weight category, and every crocheter's work is different, so these amounts are only a rough guide.

Hook size and gauge

You want a tight gauge so the stuffing won't show between your stitches, use whatever hook size allows you to achieve that - it will be smaller than suggested on the yarn label.

I like to use 3.5mm (US size E) for worsted weight.

Other tools and materials

- 6mm black plastic safety eyes (for worsted yarn; adjust size if using a different weight)
- optionally, a wire cutter to shorten the stems of the eyes
- stitch marker, pair of scissors, pins, yarn needle
- fiberfill stuffing



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Abbreviations

	US	UK/Aus
BLO		back loop only
ch		chain or chains
dc	double crochet	treble crochet
FLO		front loop only
inc	single crochet increase: <i>work 2 single crochet in the same st</i>	double crochet increase: <i>work 2 double crochet in the same st</i>
invdec		invisible decrease
pc		popcorn stitch <i>see Special stitches section</i>
rnd		round
sc	single crochet	double crochet
sl st		slip stitch
st		stitch or stitches

Notes

The pattern is written with US terminology, see the table above for the UK/Australian equivalents.

The beaver is worked in rounds without turning or joining. Use a stitch marker to keep track of your work: attach it to the 1st st of the round, replacing it when starting the next rnd.

If you prefer printed patterns but want to save ink and paper, you can print the appendix only (pages 9-10) - it contains the crochet instructions without photos. You can always check the main text if you need visual guidance for a step.

How to read the pattern

The instructions for each round start with the round number in bold, and end with the total stitch count in parentheses.

Instructions in square brackets must be repeated the specified number of times, before continuing with the remaining instructions of the round (if any).

Curly braces are used when multiple stitches must be worked into the same st (other than the single crochet increase, which has its own abbreviation).

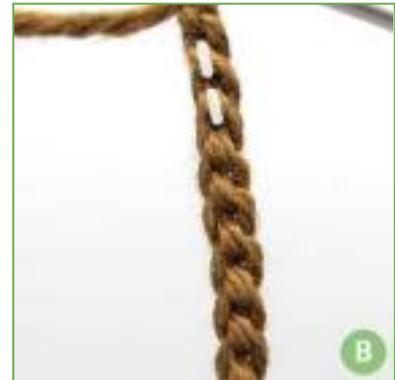
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Special stitches and techniques

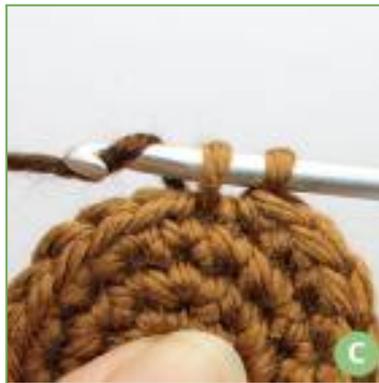
Back ridge loops

When you look at a row of chains, the front side will be like a series of tiny Vs (*Fig. A*), and the back will have a single ridge of loops (*Fig. B*). For the most symmetrical look, when working into chains, work into these back ridge loops.



Changing colors

When you make the last stitch before the change, pause when you have the last two loops on your hook. Yarn over with the new color (*Fig. C*) and pull it through the loops on the hook to finish the stitch (*Fig. D*). Cut the old color and tie the end together with the new color's.



Popcorn stitch (4-dc-popcorn)

Work 4 dc into the same stitch (*Fig. E*). Drop the live loop from your hook, insert hook into the top of the first dc (from front to back) and catch the dropped loop again (*Fig. F*). Pull the loop through the top of the dc (*Fig. G*), then ch 1 to finish the stitch.



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Head, body and tail

Rnd 1: with light brown, make a magic ring, sc 6 and pull ring closed* (6)

*leave a small, 1-2mm hole in the middle (*Fig. 1*), this will make it easier to sew on the nose

Rnd 2: inc 6 (12)

Rnd 3: sc 4, inc, sc 3, inc, sc 3 (14)

To mark the placement of the eyes, take a 15-20cm/6-8" length of scrap yarn and pull one end through the 5th stitch of the round, the other end through the 10th (*Fig. 2*).

Rnd 4: sc 5, inc, sc 3, inc, sc 4 (16)

Rnd 5: sc 6, inc, sc 3, inc, sc 5 (18)

Rnds 6-7 (2 rounds): sc in each st (18)

Rnd 8: sc 7, invdec, sc 2, invdec, sc 4, inc (17)

Rnd 9: sc 2, inc, sc 13, inc (19)

Rnd 10: sc 2, inc, sc 5, inc, sc 2, inc, sc 7 (22)

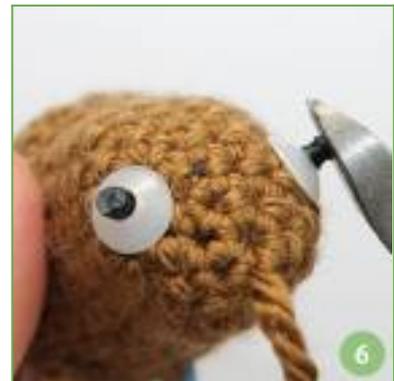
Rnd 11: pc, sc 2, pc (*Fig. 3*), sc 18 (22)

Rnd 12: sc 11, inc, sc 2, inc, sc 7 (24)

Insert the eyes between rnds 3 and 4 - the scrap yarn will show the placement, but check if they line up with the front legs (*Fig. 4: scrap yarn replaced with pins to better see the alignment with legs*) and adjust the eyes' position if necessary. Attach the eyes (*Fig. 5*).

Optionally, turn the piece inside out and use a wire cutter to chip off a few mm from the stems of the eyes, so they don't take up too much space in the tiny head (*Fig. 6*).

Then turn it right side out again, and stuff the head.



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Rnds 13-16 (4 rounds): sc in each st (24)

Rnd 17: sc 11, invdec, sc 3, invdec, sc 6 (22)

Rnd 18: sc 10, invdec, sc 3, invdec, sc 5 (20)

Rnd 19: [invdec, sc 3] 4 times (16)

Rnd 20: [sc, invdec, sc] 4 times (12)

Stuff the body. (Fig. 7)

Rnd 21: sc 7, invdec, sc 3, change to dark brown (11) (Fig. 8)

Rnd 22: FLO sc 11 (11)

Check if the body is firmly stuffed and add more fiberfill as necessary.

Flatten the tail base top to bottom, then fold back the dark brown stitches to reveal the line of back loops unworked in rnd 22 (Fig. 9). With a piece of scrap yarn, sew the flattened tail base closed, stitching through these back loops only (this seam will prevent the stuffing from expanding into the tail). (Fig. 10)

For the next four rounds, you will alternate between FLO and BLO stitches.

Rnd 23: [FLO sc, BLO sc] 5 times, FLO sc (11)

Rnd 24: [BLO sc, FLO sc] 5 times, BLO sc (11) (Fig. 11)

Rnd 25: repeat rnd 23

Rnd 26: repeat rnd 24

Rnd 27: [invdec, BLO sc] 3 times, invdec (7)

Fasten off and use yarn end to close the remaining hole (Fig. 12).

If the tail lost shape while you worked on it, flatten it again.



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Nose

Take a 30cm/12" length of dark brown yarn. Start tying a knot in the middle, but rather than just once, pass the end through the loop a total of 4 times. Gently pull both ends until you end up with a small, tight lump. (Fig. 13-15)



Sew the nose to the center of the magic ring (Fig. 16): thread a yarn end into the needle and pass it through the center of the magic ring, bringing it out between stitches on the throat. Repeat with the other end, bringing it out at the same place. Pull on the ends until the nose sits snugly, almost sinking into the ring. Then tie the two ends together, thread them into the yarn needle together, stitch through the body and pull until the knot disappears inside the body. Cut off the rest.



Ears (make 2)

Row 1: with dark brown, make a slip knot, ch 2 and fasten off leaving a long end. (Fig. 17)

The ears should be 3 rows behind the eyes, 1 st between the two ends of the chains, and about 4 st between the two ears (Fig. 18).



Use the same method to attach the ears as for the nose: bring out yarn ends at the same space at the bottom of the neck, tie them together, then pull the knot inside the body and cut off the excess yarn.

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Rear feet (make 2)

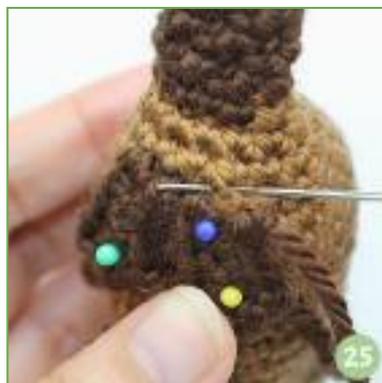
Row 1: with dark brown, make a slip knot and ch 4. Working in the back ridge loops of chains, sc in the 2nd ch from hook, sc in next ch; in the last foundation ch, {sc (Fig. 19), ch 2 (Fig. 20) and sl st in the same foundation ch (Fig. 21), ch 2 and sl st in the same foundation ch again (Fig. 22), ch 2 and sc in the same foundation ch} (Fig. 23); then continue working into the free side of the foundation chains: sc 2 (Fig. 24). (Do not work over the starting tail!)

Fasten off leaving a long end for sewing.



Pin the feet to the belly so that the heels are 2 rows from the color change, and sew this end to the body (Fig. 25).

Use the starting yarn tails to anchor the feet in the correct position (Fig. 26): stitch each end through the body and bring them out at the same space between the feet, tie the two ends together, then pull the knot inside the body and cut off the excess yarn.



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