STUDIO WOW

by Mariia Zhyrakova

crochet pattern
SPLAT LIZARD

ABOUT ME

My name is Maria, and I'm that person who turns yarn into tiny masterpieces. It all began when I was 7 or 8 years old and stumbled upon my grandma's crochet book for making doilies. Did I ever actually crochet a doily? Of course, not (what kind of motivation does an 8-year-old even have?), but I did learn how to hold a hook. That's progress!

Fast forward to 2015. I was spending long winter evenings at home and came across a dog pattern on social media. I thought, "Why not dust off my long-lost skills?"

The result was… well, let's call it 'quirky'—holes everywhere and a little wonky—but I was so proud of it! I even decided it would make a perfect Christmas gift for my friend. And so began my crochet saga.

In 2018, I met my husband, who quickly became my biggest cheerleader and first sponsor. He enthusiastically supported my brilliant idea to crochet toy keychains. I remember making a little pig (again, just before Christmas—there's definitely a theme here), and his friends loved it. That's when I felt like I had found my calling. Unfortunately, pregnancy with all its glamorous nausea forced me to put down the hook for a while—turns out crocheting is hard when all you associate it with is morning sickness.

But maternity leave put everything back on track. Picture this: baby in one hand, phone in the other. That's how I learned to promote myself on Instagram. My first blog was born, and by 2019, so was my brand—*Studio WOW*. The name had to be simple, international, and catchy, so *World of Wonders* it was. And that was just the beginning…

Your crocheting friend, Maria

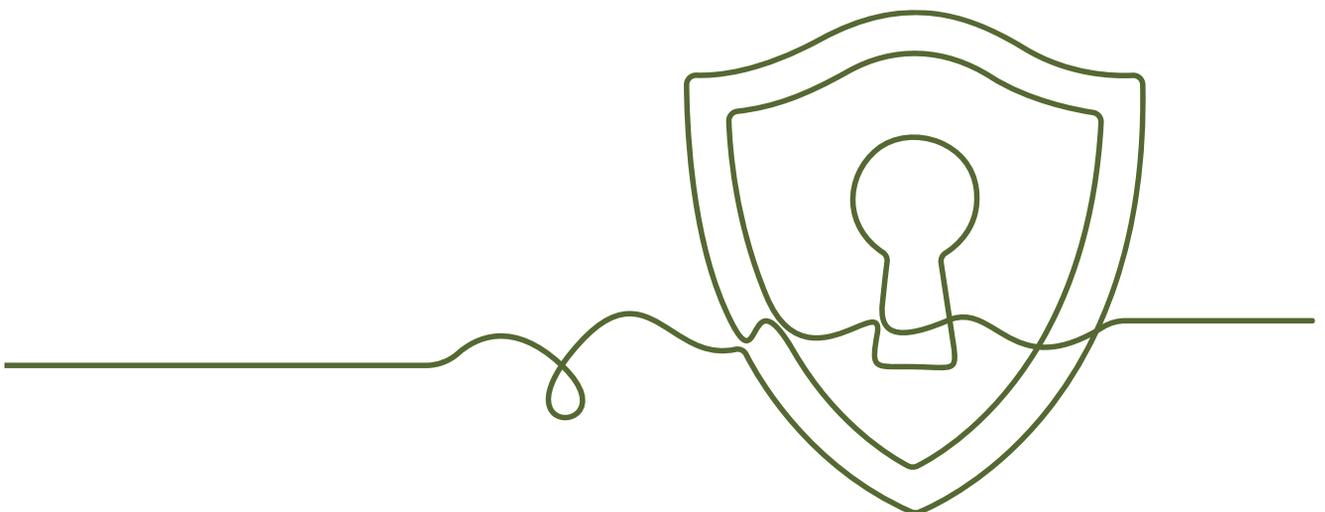| E	StudioWowToysUA		@studiowowcrochet
	@studio.wow_toys	▶	Maria Zhyrakova

🌐 www.studiowowcrochet.com

TERMS OF USE

What You CAN'T Do

1. *Sharing the pattern or parts of it is prohibited.* This includes publishing, sending, transferring, copying, or any other form of distribution.

2. *Creating videos or tutorials based on the pattern is not allowed.* Even if it feels like a great idea, it is strictly prohibited without my written consent.

3. *Reselling the pattern or parts of it is forbidden.* You cannot sell the pattern itself or any of its fragments.

What You CAN Do

1. *Share your finished works created from my patterns on social media.* Show off your skills and bring joy to others!

2. *Sell finished toys created from my patterns.* It's a great way to use your skills, but please credit the pattern's author.

Important: Respect my work, my patterns, and my rights to them. Each new pattern takes days of work, creativity, and inspiration, and your support helps bring new projects to life!

TIPS & TRIKS

① **Use a smaller hook size than suggested on yarn label**

② **Use stitch markers!**

③ **If the detail looks uneven, then iron it through a thin fabric**

④ **Change color just before the new color is needed**

Stop crocheting with Color#1 right before the last loop is pulled through. Then, put Color#2 on the hook, and use Color#2 to pull through the last two loops on the hook.

⑤ **Use an invisible decrease**

Instead of inserting your crochet hook all the way through two stitches twice, insert your crochet hook through the front loop only of the two stitches you would like to join together. Then complete your stitch as per normal.

⑥ **Stuff enough**

My advice for creating amigurumi is to stuff your toy tightly, using as much stuffing as possible. However, if you notice that your crochet stitches are stretching, start removing small pieces of stuffing one by one. The goal is to stuff your amigurumi piece full enough so it holds its shape, but not so much that the stitches begin to stretch.

⑦ **Do not join every round**

In order to keep your amigurumi as professional-looking as possible, **DO NOT** joining at the end of each round. Joining creates a visible line that can be seen. Instead, work continuously without joining and keep track of your rows using stitch markers or running stitch markers.

⑧ **Use pins before sewing amigurumi parts together**

How to watch video?

- To scan a QR code, simply open any free barcode scanner application. The QR code scanner application automatically recognizes any QR code.
- Or click on the YouTube button to watch the video tutorial

V&X-SHAPE STITCH

In my toys, I use an X-shaped stitch. Let me tell you about two interesting methods for making single crochets.

The first method, which is called the "**V-shape stitch**," goes as follows: insert your hook into a stitch, yarn over, pull through, yarn over, pull through both loops. The result is a beautiful V-shape stitch.

The second method, which Is referred to as the "**X-shape stitch**," is a bit unconventional. Insert your hook into a stitch, yarn under, pull through, yarn over, pull through both loops. And voila, you'll have a lovely X-shape stitch!

The difference between these two methods lies in the first yarn over. In the **X-shape** stitch method, the first yarn over is done from below, not from above like in the **V-shape** stitch method

You may notice that the **X-shape** stitch method creates slightly more compact and smaller loops compared to the **V-shape** stitch method.
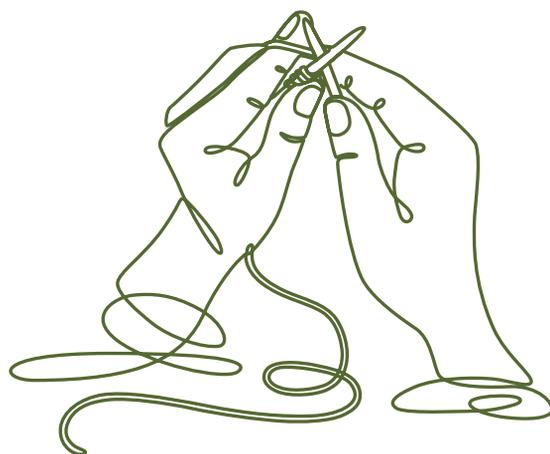
Therefore, you can experiment with different methods and choose the one that suits you best. Both methods have their own unique characteristics and can be used to create various patterns and textures in crochet projects.

It's important to remember that each method requires some practice to achieve the desired result. Gradually, you will become more confident in your crochet skills and be able to create unique and beautiful works.

So don't be afraid to experiment and explore new crochet techniques. Develop your craftsmanship and enjoy the process of creating stunning crochet pieces!

Yarn Over + Yarn Over = V-shape
Yarn Under + Yarn Over = X-shape

MATERIALS

Yarn

I use *Gazzal Baby Cotton* yarn for my amigurumi projects due to its softness and pleasant texture. **Color: Green, Beige, Yellow, Pink, Black**

In case Gazzal Baby Cotton is not available, you may consider the following *analogues*: Gazzal Baby Cotton, Drops Safran, Debbie Bliss Eco Baby, Paintbox Yarns Cotton DK, YarnArt Jeans and Katia Cotton 100%. These yarns have a similar thickness, diverse color palette, and are made of high-quality materials.
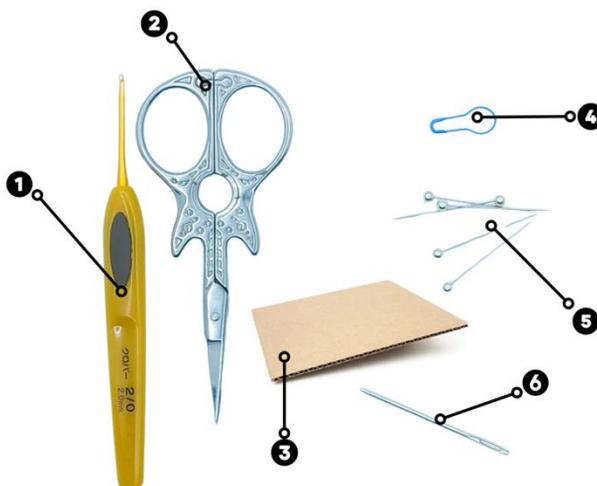
Stuffing

For stuffing my amigurumi toys, I use *polyester fiberfill*. This material provides softness, volume, and helps maintain the shape of the toys.

As an *alternative* to polyester fiberfill, you can also consider fillings such as polyfill or cotton batting. They offer similar properties and are widely available for use in crocheting projects.

Tools

1. Hook 2.00mm
2. Scissors
3. Cardboard
4. Marker
5. Pins
6. Needle

ABBREVIATIONS

MR – magic ring
sc – single crochet
inc - increase
dec – decrease
BLO – back loops only

FLO – front loops only
ch – chain stitch
ss – slip stitch
Rnd - round

…. *n* – repeat sequence in brackets *n* times
(…) – amount of stitches after the row

In this pattern uses US terminology.

2 inc means performing 2 increases in a round. This means that you need to make two consecutive increases in the specified part of the work.

Planet will be saved by eco-heroes!
Say no to printers and choose electronic files.
Be a true ecological superhero!

Beige yarn

Rnd 1*. 6 sc in MR

Rnd 2*. 6 inc *(12)*

Rnd 3*. *1 sc, 1 inc* repeat 6 times (18)*

Rnd 4*. *1 sc, 1 inc, 1 sc* repeat 6 times (24)*

Rnd 5*. *3 sc, 1 inc* repeat 6 times (30)*

Rnd 6*. *2 sc, 1 inc, 2 sc* repeat 6 times (36)*

Rnd 7*. *5 sc, 1 inc* repeat 6 times (42)*

Rnd 8*. *3 sc, 1 inc, 3 sc* repeat 6 times (48)*

Rnd 9*. *7 sc, 1 inc* repeat 6 times (54)*

Rnd 10*. *4 sc, 1 inc, 4 sc* repeat 6 times (60)*

Change color to green

Rnd 11*. BLO all round *9 sc, 1 inc* repeat 6 times (66)*

Rnd 12*. *5 sc, 1 inc, 5 sc* repeat 6 times (72)*

Rnd 13*. *11 sc, 1 inc* repeat 6 times (78)*

Rnd 14*. *6 sc, 1 inc, 6 sc* repeat 6 times (84)*

Rnd 15*. *13 sc, 1 inc* repeat 6 times (92)*

Rnd 14*. *7 sc, 1 inc, 7 sc* repeat 6 times (98)*

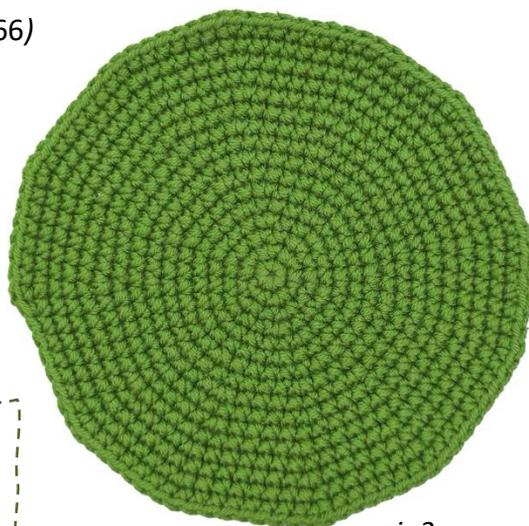*Fasten off in invisible way (pic.1)*

pic 1

To do this: *pull the yarn end through the last stitch. Take the needle. Skip one stitch, guide the yarn end through the next stitch. Insert the needle back in the same hole where the yarn comes from. Fasten the stitch. This stitch is called a closing stitch (video 1)*

Crochet the second piece in the same way as the first one, but using green yarn only and omitting the round worked in back loops only (pic.2)

pic 2

Steam the pieces through a cloth using an iron. Continue to steam all flat elements to ensure they remain even and flat

video 1

Upper head piece. **Green yarn**

Rnd 1. 6 sc *in* MR

Rnd 2. 6 inc *(12)*

Rnd 3. *1 sc, 1 inc* *repeat 6 times (18)*

Rnd 4. *1 sc, 1 inc, 1 sc* *repeat 6 times (24)*

Rnd 5. *3 sc, 1 inc* *repeat 6 times (30)*

Rnd 6. *2 sc, 1 inc, 2 sc* *repeat 6 times (36)*

Rnd 7. 36 sc

Rnd 8. 8 sc, 1 inc, 8 sc, 3 sc *in one stitch*, 8 sc, 1 inc, 9 sc *(40)*

Rnd 9. 9 sc, 1 inc, 9 sc, 3 sc *in one stitch*, 9 sc, 1 inc, 10 sc *(44)*

Rnd 10. 10 sc, 1 inc, 10 sc, 2 inc, 10 sc, 1 inc, 10 sc *(48)*

Rnds 11-12. 48 sc

Fasten off in invisible way (pic.*3-4) Leave long end*

pic 3

pic 4

Lower head piece. **Beige yarn**

Rnd 1. 6 sc *in* MR

Rnd 2. 6 inc *(12)*

Rnd 3. *BLO all round* *1 sc, 1 inc* *repeat 6 times (18)*

Rnd 4. *1 sc, 1 inc, 1 sc* *repeat 6 times (24)*

Rnd 5. *3 sc, 1 inc* *repeat 6 times (30)*

Work the following rounds using beige and green yarn (video 2)

Text – beige yarn

Text – green yarn

Rnd 6. 2 sc, 1 inc, 3 sc, 1 sc, *1 inc, 4 sc* *repeat* 3 *times*, 1 inc, 1 sc, 3 sc, 1 inc, 2 sc *(36)*

Rnd 7. 7 sc, 1 sc, 1 inc, 8 sc, 3 sc *in one stitch*, 8 sc, 1 inc, 2 sc, 7 sc *(40)*

Rnd 8. 7 sc, 2 sc, 1 inc, 9 sc, 3 sc *in one stitch*, 9 sc, 1 inc, 3 sc, 7 sc *(44)*

Rnd 9. 7 sc, 3 sc, 1 inc, 10 sc, 2 inc, 10 sc, 1 inc, 3 sc, 7 sc *(48)*

Fasten off in invisible way (pic.5) Leave long end*

video 2

pic 5

Mouth. Black yarn. 2 pieces

Make a chain of 6 chain stitches. Start in 2nd loop from hook (How to crochet an oval watch video 3)

Rnd 1. 4 sc, 3 sc *in one stitch, on the opposite side of foundation chain* 3 sc, 1 inc *(12)*

Rnd 2. 1 inc, 1 sc, 1 inc, 1 sc, 3 inc, 1 sc, 1 inc, 1 sc, 2 inc *(20)*

Rnd 3. 2 inc, 2 sc, 1 inc, 3 sc, 3 inc, 3 sc, 1 inc, 1 sc, 1 inc, 3 sc *(28)*

Rnd 4. 2 sc, 1 inc, 4 sc, 1 inc, 5 sc, 3 sc *in one stitch,* 6 sc, 1 inc, 4 sc, 1 inc, 2 sc *(34)*

Rnd 5. 1 inc, 1 sc, 1 inc, 6 sc, 1 inc, 6 sc, 3 sc *in one stitch,* 6 sc, 1 inc, 5 sc, 1 inc, 4 sc *(41)*

Rnd 6. 4 sc, 1 inc, 6 sc, 1 inc, 7 sc, 2 inc, 7 sc, 1 inc, 6 sc, 1 inc, 4 sc, 1 inc *(48)*

Fasten off in invisible way (pic.6)

Take a piece of cardboard, trace the mouth piece, and cut out two matching cardboard shapes (pic.7)

video 3

pic 6

pic 7

pic 8

pic 9

pic 10

Now you need to find the center of the upper and lower head pieces. To do this, fold each piece in half so that the pointed part (the nose) is centered along the fold (pic.8) Mark the midpoint on the side where the rounds begin

Next, take the mouth piece and place it together with the head piece, wrong sides facing each other. Align the closing stitch on the mouth piece with the marked center on the head piece. Thread a needle and start sewing the pieces together in a circle, working through the back loop of the head piece and both loops of the mouth piece (pic.9)

Once you've sewn a bit more than half of the circumference, stuff the piece firmly. Place the cardboard on top — it should sit underneath the mouth piece (pic.10)

Continue sewing. When only a few centimeters remain, add more stuffing if needed. Finish sewing, but <u>do not cut the yarn</u> — it will be used later to join the head pieces together (pic.11)

pic 11

*Sew the lower head piece to the mouth piece in the same way: place them wrong sides together, align the center with the closing stitch, sew through the back loop of the head piece and both loops of the mouth piece, insert the cardboard, and stuff the piece as you go (*pic.12*)*

pic 12

Tongue. Pink yarn

Make a chain of 33 chain stitches. Start in 2nd loop from hook (How to crochet an oval watch video 3)

Rnd 1*. 1 inc, 30 sc, 4 sc in one stitch, on the opposite side of foundation chain 30 sc, 1 inc (68)*

*Cut the yarn, leave end for sewing (*pic.13*)*

*Sew the tongue to the lower head piece along the back edge (*pic.14*)*

pic 14

pic 13

Join the upper and lower head pieces. Use the yarn tail left after sewing the mouth pieces

*Start sewing from the center and continue until you reach the beginning of the beige section on the lower head piece. Work through the front loops only of both parts (*pic.15-16*)*

pic 15

pic 16

At the end, make a small knot and hide the yarn inside the piece. Repeat the same process on the other side (pic.17)

Take the green yarn and attach it to the front loops of Round 2 (pic.18)

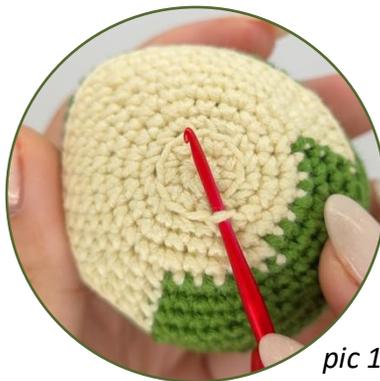**Rnd 1**. 1 ch *(doesn't count)*, in the same stitch 1 sc, 11 sc *(12)*

Rnds 2-3. 12 sc

Rnd 4. 10 sc

Don't stuff. Fold the piece in half and crochet both sides together with 6 sc (pic.19-20)

pic 17

pic 18

pic 19

Eyes. Yellow yarn

Rnd 1. 6 sc *in* MR

Rnd 2. 6 inc *(12)*

Rnd 3. *1 sc, 1 inc* repeat 6 times (18)

Rnds 4-5. 18 sc

Fasten off in invisible way. Leave end for sewing

pic 20

Place the eyes on the sides of the head between Rounds 4 and 11 (pic.21-23) Pin them in place. Sew the eyes to the head, and when about 1 cm remains, stuff them firmly. Then finish sewing
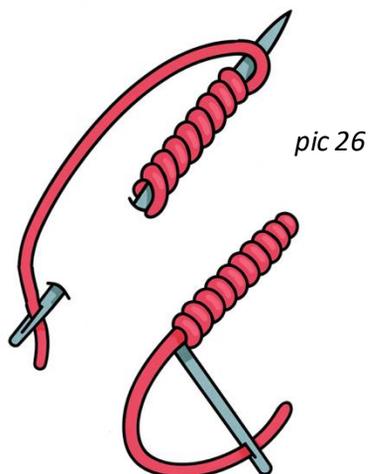

pic 21

pic 22

pic 23

Take black yarn and embroider the nostrils (pic.24)

Then, using the same black yarn, embroider the pupils on the eyes (pic.25)

You can use a French knot (pic.26) *or any other embroidery method that works best for you*

pic 26

pic 24

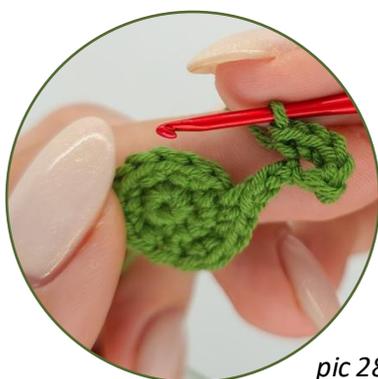pic 25

Green yarn

Rnd 1*. 6 sc *in* MR

Rnd 2*. 6 inc *(12)*

Rnd 3*. *1 sc, 1 inc* repeat 2 times, 4 ch, *(pic.27), in 2nd loop from the hook* 5 sc *in one loop* *(pic.28),* 2 sc *on the chain,* 1 sc *in the next stitch on the main detail* *(pic.29),* *5 ch, 5 sc *in one loop,* 3 sc *on the chain,* 1 sc *in the next stitch on the main detail* repeat 2 times, 4 ch, 5 sc *in one loop,* 2 sc *on the chain,* 1 sc *in the next stitch on the main detail,* 1 inc, 1 sc, 1 inc, 9 ch *(pic.30),* 8 sc *on the chain,* 1 ss *in the next stitch*
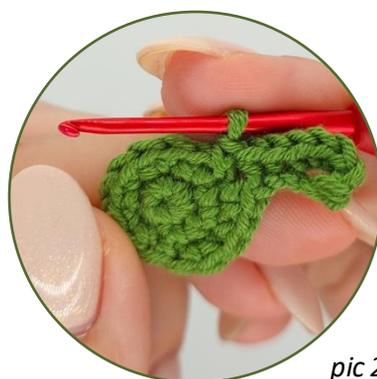
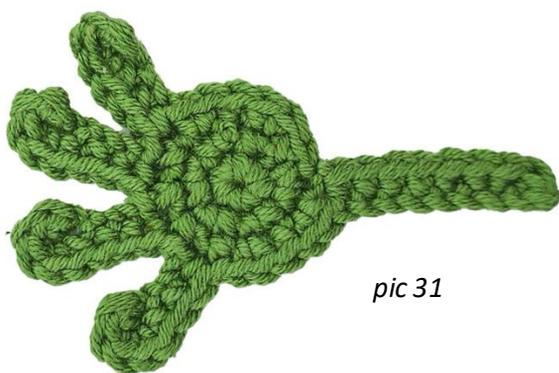*Cut the yarn (pic.31) Crochet 3 more arms. How to weave in yarn ends: see video 4*

pic 27

pic 28

pic 29

pic 31

pic 30

video 4

Grey yarn

Rnd 1. 6 sc *in* MR

Rnds 2-3. 6 sc

Rnd 4. *1 sc, 1 inc* *repeat* 3 *times (*9*)*

Rnds 5-9. */5 rounds/* 9 sc

Rnd 10. *2 sc, 1 inc* *repeat* 3 *times (*12*)*

Rnds 11-19. */9 rounds/* 12 sc

Don't stuff. Fold the piece in half and crochet both sides together with 6 sc *(*pic.*32)*

*Cut the yarn (*pic.33*)*

pic 32

pic 33

Take the two body pieces and place them wrong sides together, with the piece made using beige yarn facing up (pic.34) Insert the tail between the body pieces (pic.35)

Using a crochet hook and green yarn, insert the hook through the stitches of the last round — body, tail, and body — and pull up a loop (pic.36) Begin working around the edge with slip stitches (ss):

— Work 6 ss through the body and tail together (pic.37)
— Then, work 6 ss through both body pieces only
— Insert one arm between the body pieces and crochet it in place (pic.38-39)
— Work 28 ss along the body
— Insert the second arm and make 1 ss including it
— Work 6 ss through the body only
— Insert the head between the body pieces and work 6 ss including the head
— Then, 6 ss just through the body
— Insert the third arm and work 1 ss with it
— Work 28 ss along the body
— Insert the fourth arm and crochet 1 ss including it
— Finish with 6 ss through the body

Cut the yarn. Use the hook to pull the yarn tail backward through the first stitch. Weave in the ends

pic 34

pic 35

pic 36

pic 37

pic 38

pic 39

Thank you
for choosing my pattern!