

Skyla's Greige Stable-Base Cat Cave

A photo-matched crochet cat cave with a stable floor, removable washable comfort layer and measurement-based fit checks.



A softly squared greige dome, dense horizontal crochet texture, cream entrance edging and a broad floor that sits flat.

Publishing status

Prototype-ready draft. Crochet, wash and fit-test one physical sample before calling this pattern tested.

Project plan

Construction	Rounded-rectangle double base; dense circular walls; squared opening shaped in rows; gradual crown decreases.
Starting gauge	Prototype starting gauge: 8 sc x 8 rounds = 10 cm in dense single crochet. Change the hook until the fabric stands without becoming board-stiff.
Photo-style target	Photo-style starting target: 44-48 cm floor width, 38-42 cm depth, 38-42 cm height, 24-27 cm entrance width. Size from your cat, not these estimates.
Wash plan	Use a removable cushion or folded washable pad. Wash the crochet shell only as the yarn label allows and dry it fully in shape.

Materials

- Super-bulky washable tube yarn or two strands of bulky cotton blend
- 8-10 mm hook
- locking markers
- yarn needle
- removable cushion fabric and washable fill.

Also have: scissors, yarn needle, locking stitch markers, measuring tape and the intended washable cushion materials. Keep pins, needles and small tools away from the cat.

Abbreviations

ch = chain; sc = single crochet; sl st = slip stitch; BLO = back loop only; st(s) = stitch(es); rnd = round; sc2tog = single crochet two together.

Measure first

Interior width = cat's curled width + 8-12 cm. Interior depth = nose-to-rump resting length + 8-12 cm. Entrance width = shoulder width + 5-8 cm; entrance height must clear the ears and any functioning breakaway-collar hardware.

Write the actual floor width, depth, entrance width and entrance height in the boxes below before crocheting. Do not rely on breed, age or a generic size label.

Floor width	Floor depth	Entrance width	Entrance height
_____ cm	_____ cm	_____ cm	_____ cm

Before the full project

- Crochet and wash a 15 cm swatch. Record stitch gauge, row gauge and any growth after drying.
- Make a paper floor template from the calculated dimensions and place it where the cave will live.
- Confirm the cat can turn on the template and that the intended doorway is wider than the shoulders.
- Choose smooth yarn with no large holes, shedding fibers or rough cut ends.

Construction steps

1. Crochet two identical rounded-rectangle floor panels in dense sc. Start with a chain equal to the desired interior depth minus the width, then increase evenly around both short ends until the panel reaches the target floor size.
2. Join the two floor panels through both loops with sc. This washable double layer supplies weight and stability without a hard insert.
3. Work one back-loop-only round to turn the wall upward, then continue even sc rounds until the lower wall reaches the base of the planned entrance.
4. Mark the entrance width. Work back and forth across the remaining wall stitches, keeping the opening edges vertical for the square look. Add the cream edging only after the shell is complete.
5. When the opening reaches its full height, chain across it with the same number of stitches skipped at the base. Resume joined rounds and decrease 6-8 stitches evenly every few rounds until the crown closes smoothly.
6. Edge the doorway with one firm round of cream sc, weave every tail deeply into the dense shell, then add a separate washable cushion that lifts out easily.

Finishing checklist

- Weave each yarn tail through dense fabric in more than one direction, tug-test it, then trim.
- Press the floor on a hard surface. It must sit flat and return flat after the front edge is pressed.
- Run a hand over every inside seam and doorway edge. Correct any ridge, loop or rough point.
- Lift the cushion out without stretching the entrance and confirm every component is fully dry.

Fit check

The floor must remain flat when Skyla turns, and the opening should not brush her ears or catch a collar bell. Recheck as she grows.

- Let the cat approach voluntarily; do not place or hold the cat inside.
- Watch one complete entry, turn, lie-down and exit sequence.
- The roof and entrance must stay clear of ears, whiskers and functioning breakaway-collar hardware.
- Stop use if the cat chews yarn, catches a claw, pants, freezes, struggles to turn or avoids the exit.

Care

Remove the cushion first. Hand wash or use the yarn label's gentle cycle, support the wet shell, reshape it around towels and dry completely before use.

Safety

Supervise the first sessions. Remove the cave if the crown collapses, yarn loosens, or the entrance catches collar hardware.

If a collar is worn, it must be a functioning breakaway collar. A bell or tag can snag, so test generous clearance or remove the collar during supervised cave use. Never hide wire, tubing or sharp stabilizers inside the shell.

Final sign-off

Sample crocheted: ____ Washed and fully dried: ____ Base stayed flat: ____ Entrance stayed open: ____ Cat entered and exited comfortably under supervision: ____ Pattern version/date: _____