

Wide-Arch Oatmeal Cave With Sage Cushion

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



A calm oatmeal dome with a generous arch and a sage cushion that can be lifted out for washing.

Publishing status

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

Project plan

Construction	Double oval base; high side walls; wide arched opening; low dome crown.
Starting gauge	Prototype starting gauge: 9 sc x 9 rounds = 10 cm. Keep the stitches close enough that claws do not enter large gaps.
Photo-style target	Starting target: 46-50 cm wide, 40-44 cm deep, 34-38 cm high, 28-32 cm entrance width.
Wash plan	The sage cushion is the everyday washable layer; the shell can be cleaned less often and reshaped carefully.

Materials

- Bulky washable cotton blend or tube yarn
- 7-9 mm hook
- markers
- yarn needle
- sage cushion cover with 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

Use curled width plus 10 cm for the floor. Make the entrance about two-thirds of the front width and at least 5 cm wider than the shoulders.

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. Make two matching oval floor panels and join them with sc for a broad, level base.
2. Turn the wall with a back-loop-only round, then crochet even rounds to approximately one-third of the finished height.
3. Mark a wide entrance. Work the back and sides in rows, decreasing one stitch at each doorway edge every second row to create a soft arch.
4. Bridge the top of the arch with a chain matching the opening width, then resume rounds around the full cave.
5. Decrease evenly toward a low crown. Close only after checking that the arch remains open without hidden supports.
6. Sew a zippered or envelope-style sage cushion cover sized 1-2 cm smaller than the finished floor so it can be removed without distorting the doorway.

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

Skyla should be able to enter, turn once and curl without pressing the cushion into the opening.

- 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

Wash the cushion cover regularly. Spot clean or gently wash the shell according to the yarn label, then reshape over clean towels.

Safety

Do not add wire to hold the arch. If dense yarn alone will not keep it open, revise the gauge or choose a lower shape.

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: _____