

Natural Cotton-Rope Spiral Cave

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



A natural rope-look shell, visible spiral rounds, sage cushion and a centered rounded doorway.

Publishing status

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

Project plan

Construction	Spiral oval base; continuous dense rounds; rounded doorway; concentric crown decreases.
Starting gauge	Prototype starting gauge: 7-8 waistcoat sc x 8 rounds = 10 cm. A regular sc is acceptable if the waistcoat stitch is too tight.
Photo-style target	Starting target: 44-48 cm wide, 40-44 cm deep, 38-41 cm high, 25-28 cm doorway.
Wash plan	Choose machine-washable cotton cord only if the label permits it; otherwise use a washable cushion and spot-cleaned shell.

Materials

- Soft 4-5 mm cotton cord rated for crochet, not abrasive utility rope
- 8-10 mm hook
- spiral marker
- washable sage cushion.

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

Floor = curled body footprint plus 8-12 cm. Doorway = shoulders plus 5-8 cm. Add height only while the opening remains self-supporting.

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 dense oval base panels in continuous spirals. Join them to create a substantial floor.
2. Work one back-loop-only turning round and continue the lower wall in spiral sc or waistcoat sc.
3. At the doorway, stop spiraling and work the back wall in rows. Shape the doorway with paired decreases at both front edges.
4. Chain across the doorway top and resume spiral rounds. Place a marker at the back so the round transition stays discreet.
5. Begin evenly spaced crown decreases only after the cat has full sitting clearance. Stagger decreases to avoid a twelve-sided look.
6. Steam is not recommended for unknown cord. Shape the damp shell by hand and place the removable cushion only when every layer is dry.

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

Run a hand over the cord before use. It must feel smooth enough for Skyla's coat and paws, with no rough cut ends inside.

- 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

Follow the cord label exactly. Heavy wet cotton needs full support while washing and extended air-drying time.

Safety

Never substitute hardware-store rope with unknown coatings or splinters. Stop use if fibers shed or claws catch.

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: ____