

# Cranberry-and-Cream Color-Block Cave

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



A cranberry lower shell, cream upper dome, cranberry doorway rim and cream cushion.

## **Publishing status**

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

# Project plan

|                    |                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Construction       | Double circular-oval base; lower color block; rounded entrance; upper color change before crown shaping.                   |
| Starting gauge     | Prototype starting gauge: 8 sc x 8 rounds = 10 cm in both colors. Swatch both because dye and fiber can change the fabric. |
| Photo-style target | Starting target: 44-48 cm floor, 38-42 cm height, 25-29 cm entrance.                                                       |
| Wash plan          | The cream cushion lifts out; choose colorfast yarns and test the cranberry yarn before washing it beside cream.            |

## Materials

- Super-bulky washable yarn in cranberry and cream
- 8-10 mm hook
- markers
- yarn needle
- removable cream 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

Use the same floor and entrance formulas as Design 1. Plan the color change just above the midpoint of the doorway so it follows the photograph.

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 and join two cranberry floor panels to create the stable base.
2. Work the wall upward in cranberry, beginning with a back-loop-only turning round.
3. Shape the rounded entrance in rows. Keep the final cranberry row at an equal height around both doorway edges.
4. Change to cream at the side seam, secure the color tails inside the dense fabric, and continue the doorway arch and upper wall.
5. Bridge the opening, resume rounds and work staggered decreases to the crown. Add one cranberry sc round around the finished entrance.
6. Wash a color swatch before the whole cave. Add the cream cushion only after the shell is fully dry and no cranberry dye transfers to a white cloth.

## 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

Check that the contrast rim stays flat and cannot curl inward against Skyla's face or collar.

- 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

Cold wash separately for the first washes. Reshape and dry the shell completely; wash the removable cushion as its fabric permits.

## Safety

Do not use a bleeding dye or loosely carried color floats inside the cave.

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: \_\_\_\_