Mustard-and-Cream Striped Bow

A crochet bow tie for a compatible standard flat dog collar.

Supplied image: visual reference only. This original pattern is a prototype-ready draft, not physically crocheted, washed or fit-tested.

Materials and target size

Smooth DK cotton in mustard and cream; mustard for the center band. Start with a 3.5 mm hook, plus a yarn needle, scissors and a ruler. Reserve about 15-30 m total for one bow and its attachments, excluding your swatch. This is an untested allowance, not measured yardage.

Example collar strap width: 15 mm. Measure the actual strap thickness and assembly too. Flat bow panel target: about **6.4 x 3.5 cm**. Gathering may reduce the final width slightly; measure the assembled bow.

Gauge and skill

Beginner construction, with careful finishing. Target gauge: 22 sc and 26 rows per 10 cm in the selected body stitch, washed, dry and unstretched. Make at least a 12 cm swatch and measure the center. For the ribbed versions, swatch BLO sc separately. Adjust the hook or use the sizing formula on page 4.

Crochet the bow panel

US terms and stitch notes

ch = chain; sc = single crochet; sl st = slip stitch; st = stitch; BLO = back loop only. For sc, insert the hook, yarn over and pull up a loop, then yarn over and pull through both loops. For BLO sc, insert under only the back strand of the top V. For sl st, pull yarn through the stitch and the loop on the hook in one movement.

1. Work the rectangle

1. With mustard, ch 15. Row 1: sc in the second ch from the hook and in every ch across (14 sc).

2. Rows 2-3: ch 1, turn, sc in both loops of every stitch (14 sc). On the last sc of Row 3, use cream for the final yarn-over and pull-through.

3. Rows 4-6: with cream, ch 1, turn, sc across (14 sc). On the last sc of Row 6, change to mustard on the final pull-through.

4. Rows 7-9: with mustard, ch 1, turn, sc across (14 sc). Fasten off. Cut colors at changes, leaving 12-15 cm tails to weave in. There are three rows in each stripe.

5. Keep the plain outer edge; do not add a decorative border. Weave color tails back and forth through several stitches on the back, reversing direction. Gently wash and dry flat as the yarn label allows before gathering.

2. Gather and secure the center

Lay the panel with its width running left to right. At the vertical midpoint of the width, pinch two shallow accordion folds through the panel height. Pass a matching yarn tail through these center folds several times, catching sound stitches. Secure and weave in the tail on the back. Keep both wings even. Do not pull so hard that the middle becomes a hard lump.

3. Make the center band

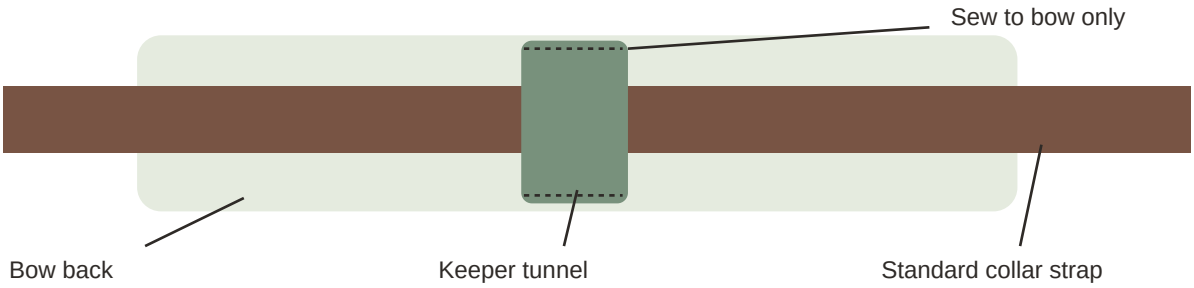
With mustard, ch 5. Row 1: sc in second ch from hook and across (4 sc). Each following row: ch 1, turn, sc in both loops across. This makes a band about 1.8 cm wide at gauge. Continue until it wraps once around the gathered center without compressing it; measure on the actual bow.

Fasten off with a 20 cm sewing tail. Place the band around the middle and butt its short ends together on the back. Whipstitch through corresponding end stitches with no overlap. Tack the band to the gathered bow above and below so it cannot rotate. Weave the tail into the band. The PDF uses SC for this part; it does not claim to reproduce every smooth V-shaped strand in the source image.

Fit the collar keeper

Work with the collar off the animal. The keeper is a separate closed loop around the strap, sewn to the back of the finished bow. It does not go around the neck.

REAR VIEW: the strap travels horizontally through the keeper



4. Check that your collar can take a closed loop

A snap buckle opening is not necessarily a free strap end. Use this slide-on version only when the collar has an accessible strap end that can be unthreaded and rethreaded exactly as its manufacturer instructs. Do not cut, unstitch or modify collar hardware. If it cannot be safely unthreaded, use a different compatible collar for this project. Do not enlarge the keeper to pass over a bulky buckle.

5. Crochet a measured loop

Measure W = strap width and T = thickness at the single strap section where the bow will sit, both in cm. Starting inside loop circumference C = 2 x (W + T) + 0.2 cm ease. This is only a starting estimate: the seam and crochet thickness require an actual fit check.

Example: W = 1.5 cm and assumed T = 0.2 cm gives C = 3.6 cm. Use the real thickness if different. With mustard, ch 5. Row 1: sc in second ch from hook and across (4 sc). Each following row: ch 1, turn, sc across. Work to approximately C cm long, then fasten off with a 25 cm tail.

Butt the short ends and whipstitch them together into a ring, with no overlap. Test it on the unthreaded strap: it should slide by hand without folding the strap, and should have no loose hanging gap. If tight or loose, undo the seam and adjust one row at a time. There is no universal row count for a keeper.

6. Sew the keeper to the bow

Remove the strap. Place one broad face of the flattened ring against the back of the bow, seam facing the bow. Tack that near layer to the center band along the upper and lower contact edges using several small stitches. Catch the bow and the near keeper layer only; leave the far layer and horizontal tunnel open. Weave in all ends. Rethread the strap, reassemble the collar exactly as directed, and verify the original buckle and adjuster still work. No sewing thread goes through the collar itself.

Finish, resize and check

Wear and care checks

Keep the bow clear of the mouth, jaw, buckle, adjuster and leash attachment. The collar should retain its normal fit and hardware function. Use only during supervised wear; remove for sleep, rough play or whenever the dog mouths, scratches at or avoids the bow. Remove damaged accessories immediately. The crochet is decorative and must never take leash force.

Take the bow off for washing. Follow the yarn label, test colorfastness, reshape the wings and dry completely before refitting. Avoid promising machine washability until you have tested the chosen yarn and finished assembly. Recheck the keeper after every wash. A loose loop or center band needs repair before use.

Resize the flat panel

Choose panel width B and height H in cm before gathering. Without a border, N = round(B x stitch gauge per cm) and R = round(H x row gauge per cm). Chain N + 1, work N sc in Row 1, then work R rows total. At this draft gauge, use 2.2 stitches and 2.6 rows per cm. With a border, subtract twice your measured border width from both B and H before calculating.

For stripes, choose R divisible by 3 and divide the rows equally between mustard, cream and mustard. For color-block, choose an even N and change at N/2 on each row, alternating working order. For ribbed fabric, use its own relaxed gauge. For bordered versions, distribute side pickups at roughly rows x stitch gauge / row gauge, allowing for the two corners; correct by laying the piece flat.

Resize the center band to the gathered middle, then remake the keeper for the actual collar. Neither a breed name nor the appearance of a bow in a photograph establishes the right fit. This dog-collar draft is not a tested cat accessory.

Record your physical sample

Yarn brand / fiber / dye lot	_____
Hook / washed stitch and row gauge	_____
Flat panel / assembled bow size	_____
Collar width / thickness / keeper length	_____
Yarn used / wash method / color check	_____
Seams secure / hardware clear / wearer comfortable	_____

Construction is an original interpretation of the supplied view. Materials, gauge, row counts, finished dimensions and attachment choices are draft instructions, not measurements recovered from the photograph. Validate a sample before describing the pattern as tested.

Terminology reference: Craft Yarn Council crochet abbreviations. Gauge reference: Reading instructions and gauge.