

Taupe-and-Cream Wave Mat for a Cat Corner



Original prototype-ready pattern draft based on the supplied design. Not physically crocheted or washed. Dimensions, yarn use, stitch selection and performance require a real sample.

Project	Written version
Skill	Intermediate colorwork
Finished target	approximately 41 x 36 cm (16.1 x 14.2 in)
Yarn	Smooth medium/worsted cotton with suitable care instructions
Starting hook	4.0 mm; adjust to the washed swatch

Materials and gauge

Allow about 300 m (328 yd) total yarn, including a planning margin, not measured consumption. Colors: taupe and cream. Also: hook, yarn needle, removable markers, scissors, tape measure and the actual bowls.

Washed body-gauge target: 18 stitches and 20 rows/rounds per 10 cm in the stated body stitch. Gauge is a design target, not a reading from the photo. Make a sample at least 15 x 15 cm in the actual stitch and colors; measure the central 10 cm after washing and drying.

1. Measure before you start

Arrange the bowls as they will be used. Measure the outside footprint including the gap between them, then add the margin you want around all sides. Keep the mat out of walking routes. Choose the mat by the bowl arrangement, not by the pet's weight.

For a row-worked mat, subtract twice the planned border depth from each desired final dimension. With g = washed stitches per cm and q = washed rows per cm, body stitches $N = \text{round}(\text{body width} \times g)$, and body rows $R = \text{round}(\text{body length} \times q)$. Chain $N+1$ for sc or the alternating sc/dc fabric. Turn with ch 1, not counted. Recalculate colorwork repeats when resizing.

For the ribbed version, the foundation follows the long side. For the oval and center-out version, use their shaping instructions and measure the growing piece. Do not apply the row-worked formula to rounds. More stitches per 10 cm makes the fabric narrower; try a larger hook for fewer stitches per 10 cm and a smaller hook for more, then wash and remeasure.

US stitch terms

ch = chain; sc = single crochet; hdc = half double crochet; dc = double crochet; sl st = slip stitch; st(s) = stitch(es); BLO = back loop only. Hdc: yarn over, insert hook, yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over through all 3 loops. Dc: yarn over, insert hook, pull up a loop; yarn over through 2 loops twice. inc = 2 stitches in one stitch.

2. Crochet the body

Foundation. With taupe, ch 73. Row 1: sc in the second chain and every remaining chain: 72 sc. Ch 1 and turn. For colorwork, apply the color instructions below from Row 1.

Rows 2 onward. Work one sc in every actual stitch, ch 1 and turn. Do not work into the turning chain. Maintain exactly 72 stitches for 70 rows total, including Row 1.

Use three yarn supplies: taupe for the left background, cream for the middle, and a separate taupe supply for the right background. The chart and complete row key on pages 5-6 replace the color sequence within every row. Read odd right-side rows right-to-left and even wrong-side rows left-to-right. Finish each boundary stitch with the incoming color. Cross the yarns once on the wrong side at each boundary, keeping the join relaxed. Leave each supply at its boundary; do not run a long strand across the cream band.

Before the border

Measure the relaxed body without pulling it straight. Count several rows and check both side edges. Finish the last row, fasten off and weave body tails in at least two directions through the stitch backs. Inspect the color joins before covering the edges. Remove all temporary pins and markers except the four corner markers used next.

3. Work the flat border

Use taupe through both loops. Put a marker in each of the four actual body corner stitches: the first and last stitches of the top row, and the two corresponding foundation corners. Ch 1 and join do not count.

Border Round 1. Work 3 sc into each marked corner, marking the middle sc of the group. Between the corners, work 70 sc along the top and 70 sc along the bottom, one per actual body stitch. Along each row-end side, distribute 61 sc BETWEEN the corner groups. Do not count the corner stitches again. Starting total: 274 sc.

For side placement, mark the row-end edge in four roughly equal sections. Distribute 15 sc per section, adding one extra pickup in each of the first 1 sections. Place the stitches evenly within each section. Skip row ends or use two pickups in a row end only as needed for even spacing; do not put every extra stitch in one spot.

These pickup numbers come from the target gauge. The actual edge length is the deciding check. If the side ripples, undo it and use fewer evenly distributed pickups. If it draws inward, undo it and use more. Match opposite sides and record any revised count; blocking does not repair excess stitches.

Stop after this one fine taupe round. It gives a continuous outline; that is an intentional variation from the source, where the cream wave runs visually into parts of the edge.

Fasten off, weave in the remaining ends and remove all markers. Keep the edge single-layered, with no appliqués, fringe, hanging loops or stiff binding.

4. Wash, measure and check the finished mat

The title describes the intended use. Washability, colorfastness, finished dimensions and border flatness have not been physically verified. Choose a yarn whose label supports your intended cleaning method and test it before making the full mat.

First wash. Follow the actual yarn label for water temperature, detergent and drying method. Wash contrasting colors together in a sample first and check for transfer. Do not assume that all cotton yarn tolerates a hot wash or tumble drying.

Dry and remeasure. Dry completely as the label permits. Lay the mat on a level surface without pins, bowls or weights. Measure both dimensions and check every edge. A corner that rises again when released needs correction. Record the washed size below.

Check the feeding setup. Put the intended bowls on the dry mat and press gently at their rims. They should sit steadily. Test for movement on the actual floor while supervising your pet. Remove a mat that slides, bunches, catches paws or is chewed. No slip-resistance, waterproofing or chew-resistance claim is supplied.

Between meals. Keep food inside dishes, lift crumbs out of the fabric, and remove and clean a damp or dirty mat promptly. Check and dry the floor beneath it, especially wood or laminate. Keep the fabric completely dry between uses.

Wash pet food bowls after each use with soap and hot water, as advised by the FDA. The mat does not replace bowl cleaning. Follow material-specific cleaning instructions for the mat; the CDC also recommends following pet-supply care labels.

Problem	Correction to check
Ruffled edge	Count corners; reduce excess side pickups and remake.
Cupped mat	Check tight border stitches or missed shaping increases.
Bowls rock or mat slides	Choose a flatter fabric or a different feeding setup.
Colorwork puckers	Relax yarn joins/carried strands; remake the affected rows.
Corner gap	Verify placement first; discreetly close only a residual small gap.

Design-specific note: The photo shows the mat on a wood-look floor. Lift it after spills and check underneath; cotton fabric is not a waterproof floor protector.

Physical sample record

Yarn brand / fiber / dye lot: _____

Hook: _____ Washed gauge: _____ sts / _____ rows per 10 cm

Finished dimensions: _____ Used yarn: _____

Side pickups / shaping revisions: _____

Wash cycle and drying method: _____

Flat border / steady bowls / floor checked: _____

Maker / date / revision: _____

Care sources: FDA pet-food handling; CDC pet-supply cleaning. Stitch terms: Craft Yarn Council.

Wave chart: 72 stitches x 70 rows

Taupe is the background; cream is the band. Each square is one sc. This is an original chart approximating the supplied wave, not a reconstruction of its hidden stitch counts. Work from the bottom upward. Odd rows are right-side rows read right-to-left; even rows are read left-to-right.



Each square = 1 stitch. Read from the bottom upward.

The cream band is always 24 stitches wide. Both taupe sections plus the cream band total 72 stitches on every row. Use the row key on the next page if the grid is too small. Keep the join smooth and check the back for long loose strands.

Wave row key: all 70 rows

L = taupe stitches on the LEFT of the right-side chart; C = cream; R = taupe on the RIGHT. Odd rows work R, C, L. Even rows work L, C, R. All rows have C = 24.

Row	L	C	R
1	2	24	46
2	2	24	46
3	2	24	46
4	2	24	46
5	2	24	46
6	3	24	45
7	3	24	45
8	3	24	45
9	3	24	45
10	4	24	44
11	4	24	44
12	4	24	44
13	5	24	43
14	5	24	43
15	5	24	43
16	6	24	42
17	6	24	42
18	7	24	41
19	7	24	41
20	8	24	40
21	9	24	39
22	9	24	39
23	10	24	38
24	10	24	38
25	11	24	37
26	12	24	36
27	12	24	36
28	13	24	35
29	14	24	34
30	14	24	34
31	15	24	33
32	16	24	32
33	17	24	31
34	17	24	31
35	18	24	30

Row	L	C	R
36	19	24	29
37	19	24	29
38	20	24	28
39	21	24	27
40	22	24	26
41	22	24	26
42	23	24	25
43	24	24	24
44	24	24	24
45	25	24	23
46	26	24	22
47	26	24	22
48	27	24	21
49	27	24	21
50	28	24	20
51	29	24	19
52	29	24	19
53	30	24	18
54	30	24	18
55	31	24	17
56	31	24	17
57	31	24	17
58	32	24	16
59	32	24	16
60	32	24	16
61	33	24	15
62	33	24	15
63	33	24	15
64	33	24	15
65	34	24	14
66	34	24	14
67	34	24	14
68	34	24	14
69	34	24	14
70	34	24	14