

Oatmeal Oval With a Plain Outer Edge



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	Confident beginner with shaping
Finished target	aim for approximately 50 x 35 cm (19.7 x 13.8 in), measured after washing
Yarn	Smooth medium/worsted cotton with suitable care instructions
Starting hook	4.0 mm; adjust to the washed swatch

Materials and gauge

Allow about 380 m (416 yd) total yarn, including a planning margin, not measured consumption. Colors: oatmeal. 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

Round 1. Ch 30. Work 3 sc in the second chain from the hook and mark this group as End A. Sc in each of the next 27 chains. Work 3 sc in the last chain and mark this group as End B. Turn the foundation to work along its unused underside; sc in the next 27 chains, returning to End A. Join to the first sc. Total: 60 sc = 3 + 27 + 3 + 27.

Mark the boundaries between each rounded end and each straight side. The straight sides always have 27 stitches each. Work joined rounds: ch 1, which does not count, then begin in the first actual sc. Do not turn.

Round r , from Round 2 onward. At End A repeat (sc in the next $r-2$ stitches, 2 sc in the next stitch) three times; when $r=2$, the sc part is zero. Sc in the 27 side stitches. Repeat the same increase sequence at End B, then sc in the remaining 27 side stitches. Join. Each end gains 3 stitches; the whole round gains 6.

Round	Each end	Whole round
1	3	60
2	6	66
3	9	72
10	30	114
32	96	246
33	99	252
34	102	258

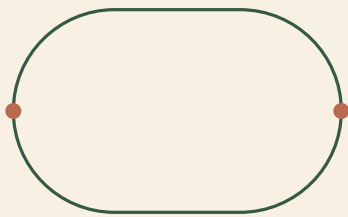
Body target: work through Round 32. The last two rounds, 33-34, are the plain outer border and continue the same six-increase shaping. These counts are a starting version, not evidence of the pictured size. Lay flat after each round. Use the actual dimensions to decide whether a further complete increase round is needed.

3. Keep the outer rounds flat

Rounds 33 and 34 use the same yarn, stitch and increase sequence as the body. Do not work them straight without increases: the perimeter is still expanding. Keep the two straight sections at 27 stitches and all six increases in the two rounded ends.

If ripples develop around the ends, stop and undo the first affected round. Check whether an increase was duplicated or the yarn tension changed. If the fabric cups, check for missed increases or over-tight stitches. Correct the cause and remake the round; do not force the shape flat with bowls or aggressive blocking.

After the last round, fasten off and weave the end through the backs of several stitches in two directions. The final edge stays single-layered. Do not add a folded hem, cord, piping or a no-increase rim.



Construction sketch, not a photograph or a scale template.

A flat border starts with spacing

Straight sides: keep 27 stitches on each.

Rounded ends: add 3 stitches at each end.

Outer rounds: continue the increase sequence.

Check the relaxed shape without bowls or pins.

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: Check the mat with the bowls removed. The dog's paw in the reference is not evidence that the edge stays flat on its own.

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.