

Dusty-Blue Mat Worked From the Center Out



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 400 m (438 yd) total yarn, including a planning margin, not measured consumption. Colors: dusty blue. Also: hook, yarn needle, removable markers, scissors, tape measure and the actual bowls.

Washed body-gauge target: 16 stitches and 12 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 = round(body width x g), and body rows R = round(body length x 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 28. Work 3 hdc in the third chain from the hook; mark the middle stitch as Corner A. Hdc in each of the next 24 chains. Work 6 hdc in the final chain as two groups of 3; mark the second and fifth stitches as Corners B and C. Turn to the underside and hdc in each of the next 24 chains. Work 3 hdc back in the first worked chain; mark its middle stitch as Corner D. Join to the first hdc. Total: 60 hdc.

Work joined rounds without turning. Ch 2 at the start; it never counts. Begin in the first actual stitch, not the joining slip stitch. The corner markers stay in the middle stitch of their three-stitch groups.

Rounds 2-20. Hdc in every stitch except the four marked corners. Work 3 hdc in each marked corner stitch and move the marker to the middle of the new three-stitch group. Join. Each round gains 8 stitches. Do not add corner chain spaces.

Round	Total hdc
1	60
2	68
3	76
5	92
10	132
15	172
20	212

Use $N(r) = 60 + 8(r-1)$ to check any round. Stop near a relaxed body size of 48 x 33 cm before the border. Round 20 is a planning estimate; adjust the number of complete rounds to your fabric. The shape will have softly rounded corners rather than an oval. Check it lies flat without pins before moving on.

3. Change to a plain outer border

At the four marked corner stitches, use 3 sc; in every other stitch, use one sc through both loops. Ch 1 at the start and join to the first sc; chains and slip stitches never count. Move each corner marker to the middle sc of its new group.

Match the width of a border sc to the width of the body hdc before applying it. Start with the body hook, but adjust the border hook if needed to match approximately 16 sc per 10 cm. A much tighter border can pull the hdc center into a bowl.

Body ends at	Border Round 1	Border Round 2
Round 20: 212 stitches	220 sc	228 sc
Any round with N stitches	$N + 8$ sc	$N + 16$ sc

Make two border rounds. Lay the mat down after each. Undo and correct a tight or rippling round before continuing. Four unchained corner groups give a denser, somewhat squarer outline than the open diagonal shaping in the source image.



A flat border starts with spacing

Top and bottom: work into actual stitches.

Sides: distribute pickups over the row ends.

Corners: mark the middle stitch of each group.

Remove bowls and pins before the flatness check.

Construction sketch, not a photograph or a scale template.

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: Do not stretch or pin the corners into a flat shape and call them finished. Correct the stitch placement if they lift again once dry.

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.