

Crochet Skull Coaster

One design / charcoal and cream references / US terms



Pets Crochet

Private prototype-ready editorial draft, version 1.0 / 16 September 2026. Not physically crocheted, blocked, wash-tested or use-tested.

Original design and source photographs: Mumsy Makes / Loralie Hayes. PetsCrochet editorial adaptation.

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Materials, gauge and uncertain size

Source materials. 5 mm / US H-8 hook; Stylecraft Special Aran, Graphite 1063; yarn needle with a large eye; scissors. The PDF states 10.3 m (about 11.3 yd) of yarn, but that quantity is not verified for this adaptation. Keep extra for a swatch and finishing. The cream example is photographed, but its exact shade is not specified.

Fibre and use. Stylecraft's 2023 shade book identifies Special Aran as 100% premium acrylic. The source is not a cotton-coaster pattern. A cotton substitution needs its own gauge, shape and care test. Neither the source nor this draft establishes heat resistance or protection for a table finish. Do not use as a hot-pan trivet.

Size conflict. The PDF states about 3 in / 7.6 cm high, on a materials page mistakenly headed Sunflower Car Coaster. The designer's online Etsy listing states about 6 in. These conflict; neither is promised here. Measure a completed sample from the crown top to the bottom of the jaw and across the widest head area, laid flat without stretching. Record both dimensions and the intended cup-base size.

Gauge check. The PDF gives 18 stitches and 18 rows of single crochet over 4 in / 10 cm. That is source-only information from the mislabelled page, not verified gauge for this mostly hdc/tr design. For a comparison swatch: ch 23, sc in the second chain and each remaining chain (22 sc); ch 1, turn, sc in all 22 for 21 more rows. Ch 1 does not count. Measure the central 18 stitches and 18 rows after following the yarn's care label; record the actual span.

Resizing. Only one stitch-count version is supplied. Make and measure the prototype before scaling. For a first estimate with a similar yarn, new height = your measured sample height x old stitches per cm / new stitches per cm, comparing like-for-like sc swatches. Row height and openwork geometry can change independently, so verify both finished axes in a new sample. Do not double the rounds to resolve the size conflict.

Source yarn reference: Stylecraft 2023 shade book. Designer listing: Loralie Hayes on Etsy. These sources do not test this adapted guide.

Stitch key and first round

US terms. ch = chain; sl st = slip stitch; sc = single crochet; hdc = half double crochet; dc = double crochet; tr = treble crochet; st = stitch; sp = space. Work joined rounds without turning. Use both top loops unless a chain space is specified. Source typos hcd and bas are read as hdc and base.

Stitches. For hdc: yarn over, insert hook, yarn over and draw up a loop, yarn over through all three loops. For dc: yarn over, insert, draw up a loop, then yarn over through two loops twice. For tr: yarn over twice, insert, draw up a loop, then yarn over through two loops three times. For sl st: insert hook, yarn over and draw through the fabric and active loop together.

Chain counting. The initial ch 4 supplies one centre chain and three rising chains counted as the first tr, following the source. Ch 1 at the starts of rounds 2 and 3 does not count. Round-2 jaw rise and descent each form one chain-two edge space, not extra dc. In the clarified round-3 jaw, the new rising ch 2 counts as the first dc; its descending ch 2 is a separate edge space.

Named landmarks. Mark the first counted crown tr. Call the tr after the first ch-5 loop anchor A, and the tr after the central ch-2 space anchor B. Those two posts frame the small central opening. Round 2 has 16 crown hdc, 9 first-eye hdc, a jaw panel, and 9 second-eye hdc. Mark the first hdc and both jaw chain-two edges.

Foundation and crown. Ch 4. Work 7 tr into the fourth chain from the hook, which is the first chain you made. The other three starting chains count as one tr: 8 crown positions altogether. Mark the top of the rise, the last chain made.

Eye and nose framework. Ch 5; work 1 tr into the same centre chain (anchor A). Ch 2; work 1 tr into the same centre (anchor B). Ch 5; sl st into the marked top of the initial rise. You have 10 tr positions including the rise, two ch-5 eye loops and one ch-2 centre space. Keep the yarn attached.

Round 2: outline and jaw

Crown. Ch 1, not counted. Work 2 hdc into the same top position as the join, then 2 hdc into each of the next 7 crown tr. Count 16 hdc and mark the first one.

First eye. Work 9 hdc around the first ch-5 loop, entering the loop rather than individual chains. Sl st into the top of anchor A. You now have 25 hdc before the jaw.

Jaw. Ch 2; dc into the top of anchor A, the same anchor used for the sl st. Work 3 dc into the central ch-2 space, then 1 dc into the top of anchor B. Ch 2 and sl st back into the top of anchor B, at the base of that last dc. This creates 5 actual dc between two chain-two edge spaces.

Second eye and join. Work 9 hdc around the second ch-5 loop. Sl st into the first hdc of the round. Keep the yarn attached. Total: 34 hdc, 5 dc and two jaw edge spaces; positioning and joining slip stitches are not added to the count.



Source photograph: completed second round. Working-loop orientation varies between photos; use the named anchors, not the page direction.

Round 3: clarified placements

Why this round is clarified. The source says 24 hdc before the jaw and 9 after it, but round 2 provides $25 + 9 = 34$ hdc. It also refers to six jaw stitches after the first without defining whether the edge chains count. This edition uses all 34 hdc once and explicitly defines seven jaw positions. These are proposed construction clarifications, not a physically verified correction.

Crown and first eye. Ch 1, not counted. Begin in the FIRST hdc of round 2, the stitch used for the join. Hdc in each of the 16 crown hdc and each of the next 9 first-eye hdc: 25 hdc. Do not skip the first stitch or work into the old joining slip stitch.

Enter the jaw. Sl st into the top of the round-2 rising ch 2. Ch 2, counted as the first dc for this jaw row, then dc into that same chain-top position. Work one dc into each of the next 5 actual jaw dc. Work one dc around the descending ch-2 edge space. There are 8 dc positions including the new rising ch 2.

Leave the jaw. Ch 2 and sl st back into that same round-2 descending ch-2 edge space, the anchor of the last dc just made. This defines the source's ambiguous return to the base. Keep the loop short enough to avoid a projecting snag, without pulling the jaw inward.

Second eye and finish. Hdc once in each of the remaining 9 round-2 hdc around the second eye. Cut the yarn, leaving a tail for the needle join described below. The clarified round has 34 hdc, 8 dc positions including its rise, and one descending ch-2 edge space. Finish without crocheting an extra joining stitch.



Finish, care and sample checks

Needle join. Pull the cut tail through the last loop. With a yarn needle, pass under both top loops of the first hdc of round 3, then back down through the top of the last hdc, imitating a stitch top. Adjust to the neighbouring stitch size and weave the tail on the reverse. This guide specifies the join directly: the source mentions an invisible-join link, but no usable link is embedded in the supplied PDF. Do not add both a slip-stitch join and an extra duplicate needle stitch.

Secure the centre. Weave the starting tail through several dense stitches around the centre chain, reversing direction. Secure all ends so no loose loop hangs into an eye or nose opening. Remove every marker and check both sides.

Shape and inspect. Lay flat and arrange the eye openings and jaw without stretching. If shaping or washing is needed, follow the actual yarn label and test a scrap first; do not assume steaming or ironing is appropriate. No blocking method is established by the source. Measure crown-to-jaw height and widest width after the piece rests flat.

Decorative coaster limits. The eye and nose openings leave parts of the surface beneath exposed. This design is not a continuous moisture barrier. Test an empty cup on a dry piece: it must sit steadily on the surrounding fabric. If it rocks or needs surface protection the openwork cannot provide, use the skull as table decoration instead. Do not use with hot cookware.

Care in a pet home. These are table accessories, not pet toys. Keep working yarn and finished pieces away from pets that chew or pull at yarn. Follow the chosen yarn label for cleaning, dry fully and inspect the ends and shape before using again. No washability, absorbency or heat-protection claim has been tested for this draft.

Troubleshooting. For a puckered crown, check that all eight round-1 crown positions received two hdc. For unequal eyes, count nine hdc in each ch-5 loop. For a skewed jaw, identify the five actual round-2 dc and the two chain-two edge spaces before round 3. For a pulling outline, loosen joins and check the 25/9 hdc split. A correct count is necessary but does not prove the prototype will lie flat; record any sample-based change.

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Original pattern listing: Mumsy Makes Crochet.

Source photo atlas 1

Original source images by Mumsy Makes / Loralie Hayes. Physical page order retained. These show the original construction, not a sample of the clarified draft.



p01-01 / source p. 1. Charcoal and cream skull coasters with open eye sockets, a small nose opening and a short jaw.



p03-02 / source p. 3. The initial fan of treble stitches before the eye loops.



p03-01 / source p. 3. First chain-five loop and a treble anchor worked into the centre.



p04-01 / source p. 4. Close view of a chain-five loop and the central anchor stitches.



p04-02 / source p. 4. Completed foundation with the crown fan and two open eye loops.



p05-01 / source p. 5. Half-double-crochet increases worked across the crown.

Source photo atlas 2

Original source images by Mumsy Makes / Loralie Hayes. Physical page order retained. These show the original construction, not a sample of the clarified draft.



p05-02 / source p. 5. Nine half double crochets around the first eye loop.



p06-01 / source p. 6. The first jaw section worked across the two anchor stitches and centre space.



p06-02 / source p. 6. Second outline round completed around both eye loops and jaw.



p07-01 / source p. 7. Outer half-double-crochet border approaching the jaw.



p07-02 / source p. 7. Final jaw row in progress on the source sample.



p08-01 / source p. 8. Finished source skull before the working yarn is fastened off.