Dark Plush Christmas Cat

US crochet terms | Version 1.0 | October 27, 2026



Making status

Prototype-ready editorial draft. Stitch arithmetic has been checked, but no independent crochet sample, finished-size test, accessory fit test or wash test has been performed. Make a sample and record changes. These are adult display figures, not pet toys or verified children's toys.

What this guide contains

One plush cat with complete head, muzzle, ears, arms, legs, body and tail. A proposed Santa hat, pom and gift bag are new accessory drafts because their written schedules were absent from the supplied material.

Materials and starting points

Reference plush yarn examples: Himalaya Dolphin Baby or YarnArt Dolce for the main colour; white plush yarn for paws and muzzle. A compatible white yarn such as the named Softy Plus reference must be sampled; fibre and thickness are not inferred from photographs. Start with a 3.5-4 mm hook for the cat.

The reference height is about 30 cm (12 in), unverified in this draft. New hat/bag proposal uses smooth worsted yarn and a 3.5 mm trial hook; this is not evidence of the photographed accessory gauge.

Tools and allowances

Prepare compatible toy filling, a blunt yarn needle, strong sewing thread if needed for dense plush, dark and white embroidery yarn, locking markers, pins, tape measure and scissors. This route uses sewn joins and embroidered eyes/noses instead of requiring plastic eyes, wire whiskers, cotter pins, glue or internal wire. Existing reference photos may show those materials. This change does not establish a safety certification.

No measured yarn or filling quantity was supplied. Purchase by the actual yarn's yardage/weight and your sample. Weigh a completed sample component and record grams by colour; multiply repeated pieces and add measured assembly/accessory use. Retain a documented allowance for sampling. Do not call an arbitrary skein count a measured requirement.

Gauge and size method

Crochet a 20-sc by 20-row swatch in the intended yarn and hook using the same tightness as the figure. Measure a central 10 cm or the largest central area available without edge distortion. Record stitches per cm (gS) and rounds/rows per cm (gR). The fabric should hold the filling without visible gaps; if gaps remain, change hook/yarn and sample again.

At a fixed stitch count N, approximate tube circumference=N/gS. A straight section of R rounds has approximate height=R/gR. These estimates do not predict total height across shaped heads, legs and sewn joins. For a target straight dimension L use gTarget=N/L as a sampling guide. If only changing gauge, new straight size approximates old measured size x old gauge/new gauge. Keep all parts proportional and check the actual assembled result before making hats.

A hat opening should be compared with the actual head where it sits, including ear clearance. Measure the opening relaxed. Change hook/yarn and remake the accessory if needed. No rigid single circumference is guaranteed to fit all models.

Read the stitch schedules

The compact notation is deliberate and is used in every table: sc=single crochet, hdc=half double crochet, dc=double crochet, sl st=slip stitch, ch=chain, MR=magic ring, BLO=back loop only. A number before sc means that many consecutive single crochets. V=2 sc in one old top. A=sc2tog over two old tops. T=3 sc in one old top. Example (2sc,V)*3 means repeat [sc,sc,2sc in next] three times. 3V means an increase in each of three consecutive old tops.

White { ... } and grey { ... } name colour segments, not extra repeats. Work their stitches in that colour. Outside braces use the part's stated main colour. An x-number after a bracket is the only repeat multiplier. All stitch counts are actual new tops; starting/lifting chains are uncounted unless the foundation specifically works into them.

Work spirals without turning or joining unless instructed. Move a marker to the first actual stitch each round. Ch1 and turn for flat sc rows. Close magic rings securely and weave starting tails. To decrease, pull up a loop in each of the next two stitches, yarn over and draw through all three loops. Invisible decreases through front loops may be sampled as a consistent alternative.

For a round colour change, complete the previous stitch's final pull-through with the new yarn. Carry short sections inside the figure without tight floats. Weave in changes, keeping colour positions tied to the round marker. Do not shift the marker without recording it; some patch schedules rely on it.

Foundations and sewing

Oval foundations work around both sides of a chain. Each foundation row gives exact placements and a total; do not interpret the turning chain as an extra top. Bridge chains between two legs are worked on both sides to connect the two circumferences. A partial repositioning run before joining moves the working point; it does not add a full new round.

Leave at least 25-30 cm sewing tails where practical, longer for large seams. Use a fresh separate length if needed. Pin parts first. Use small whip or mattress stitches through sound crochet anchors, then make a second securing pass at high-movement joins. Weave ends through several internal fabric paths and inspect before trimming. No glue-only join is specified.

Stuff incrementally: compact filling where a shape needs support, less in upper arms and thin tails. Avoid rigid bulges, exposed filling and stretched holes. Close final holes by drawing through remaining front loops and burying the tail.

Photo differences and draft interpretations

The two photographs show a finished cat only. They do not show assembly stages. Original hardware joints and fishing-line whiskers are not required by this sewn version. The construction diagram is a new schematic. The source body R8-R17 has 10 rounds, correcting the printed “8” parenthesis. Hat, pom and bag are new proposed schedules, not recovered original instructions.

Head

Spiral rounds; dark plush yarn.

Colour: Dark charcoal

Round / row	Complete US instructions	End tops
1	Work 6 sc in a magic ring.	6
2	6V	12
3	(1sc,V)*6	18
4	(2sc,V)*6	24
5	(3sc,V)*6	30
6	(4sc,V)*6	36
7	(5sc,V)*6	42
8	(6sc,V)*6	48
9	(7sc,V)*6	54
10-15	54sc	54
16	(7sc,A)*6	48
17	(6sc,A)*6	42
18	(5sc,A)*6	36
19	(4sc,A)*6	30
20	(3sc,A)*6	24
21	(2sc,A)*6	18
22	(1sc,A)*6	12
23	6A	6

Finish and check

Stuff before the last decreases. Close the final 6-top hole through the front loops. Eye line is between R13 and R14, about 5 intervening stitch positions. This draft uses embroidered eyes instead of photographed plastic parts. For this assembly orientation, place the starting MR at the lower chin and the closed R23 at the crown, matching the stated lower-muzzle and upper-ear row ranges. Pin the face before sewing the neck near the chin end.

Muzzle

Spiral; white yarn. Make 1.

Colour: White

Round / row	Complete US instructions	End tops
1	Work 6 sc in a magic ring.	6
2	6V	12
3	(3hdc,3V)*2	18
4	(2sc,V)*6	24
5	24sc	24

Finish and check

Stuff lightly. Centre on the lower front of the head, approximately between R5 and R12 as viewed from its bottom point. Pin in place first. Embroider a peach nose between muzzle R4/R5 and a short dark mouth.

Ears (make 2)

Spiral; dark yarn.

Colour: Dark charcoal

Round / row	Complete US instructions	End tops
1	Work 6 sc in a magic ring.	6
2	(sc,V)*3	9
3	9sc	9
4	(2sc,V)*3	12
5	12sc	12
6	(3sc,V)*3	15
7	15sc	15

Finish and check

Leave unfilled, flatten and sew the entire bottom edge closed. Pin symmetrically around head R14-R19. The odd 15-top opening is closed by sewing, not an invented paired stitch count.

Arms (make 2)

Spiral; start white, switch to dark before R10.

Colour: White R1-R9; dark R10-R19

Round / row	Complete US instructions	End tops
1	Work 6 sc in a magic ring.	6
2	6V	12
3	(sc,V)*6	18
4-6	18sc	18
7	10sc,4A	14
8	14sc	14
9	10sc,2A	12
10-17	12sc	12
18	(4sc,A)*2	10
19	Fold opening flat; sc through 5 paired tops to close. This is a seam, not a new 10-top round.	5

Finish and check

Fill the paw lightly before narrowing; keep the top soft. Embroider short toe lines. Sew closed arm tops at body R21-R22. Hardware joints are omitted.

Legs (make 2)

Spiral; start white, switch to dark before R13.

Colour: White R1-R12; dark R13-R21

Round / row	Complete US instructions	End tops
1	Work 6 sc in a magic ring.	6
2	6V	12
3	(sc,V)*6	18
4	(2sc,V)*6	24
5	(3sc,V)*6	30
6-7	30sc	30
8	(3sc,A)*6	24
9	24sc	24
10	8sc,8A	16
11-18	16sc	16
19	(2sc,A)*4	12
20	12sc	12
21	Fold opening flat; sc through 6 paired tops to close. This is a seam.	6

Finish and check

Fill the white paw and lower leg. Embroider short toes. Sew the closed tops at body R8-R9 and compare both feet before fastening.

Body

Spiral; dark yarn.

Colour: Dark charcoal

Round / row	Complete US instructions	End tops
1	Work 6 sc in a magic ring.	6
2	6V	12
3	(1sc,V)*6	18
4	(2sc,V)*6	24
5	(3sc,V)*6	30
6	(4sc,V)*6	36
7	(5sc,V)*6	42
8-17	42sc	42
18	(5sc,A)*6	36
19	36sc	36
20	(4sc,A)*6	30
21	30sc	30
22	(3sc,A)*6	24
23	24sc	24

Finish and check

R8-R17 means 10 rounds, correcting the contradictory source parenthesis. Stuff with no yarn gaps. Keep the 24-top neck open and sew it concentrically to the closed underside of the head.

Tail

Spiral; white tip then dark.

Colour: White R1-R4; dark R5-R18

Round / row	Complete US instructions	End tops
1	Work 6 sc in a magic ring.	6
2	6V	12
3-18	12sc	12

Finish and check

Change from white to dark before R5. Leave unfilled or add only a trace of filling. Flatten and sew the entire open end to body R8-R9 at the back.

Proposed Santa hat for the plush cat

Spiral; start red. New accessory draft; no hat instructions in the supplied file.

Colour: Red/white

Round / row	Complete US instructions	End tops
1	Work 6 sc in a magic ring.	6
2	6sc	6
3	(sc,V)*3	9
4	9sc	9
5	(2sc,V)*3	12
6	12sc	12
7	(3sc,V)*3	15
8	15sc	15
9	(4sc,V)*3	18
10	18sc	18
11	(2sc,V)*6	24
12	24sc	24
13	(3sc,V)*6	30
14	30sc	30
15	(4sc,V)*6	36
16	36sc	36
17	(5sc,V)*6	42
18	42sc	42
19	(6sc,V)*6	48
20	48sc	48
21	(7sc,V)*6	54
22-25	54sc	54

Finish and check

R1-R23 red, R24-R25 white. Starting point: smooth worsted yarn with 3.5 mm hook. Test the 54-top opening against the actual head with ears outside the hat. If too tight/loose, adjust hook or yarn and remake; do not force. Size depends on new gauge. Sew to the head for display.

Proposed hat pom

Spiral; white.

Colour: White

Round / row	Complete US instructions	End tops
1	Work 6 sc in a magic ring.	6
2	6V	12
3	12sc	12
4	6A	6

Finish and check

Lightly fill, close 6 tops and sew to hat tip with multiple passes. It is an optional separate decoration, not tested for handling.

Proposed display gift bag

Spiral; red smooth worsted with same trial hook.

Colour: Red/white

Round / row	Complete US instructions	End tops
1	Work 6 sc in a magic ring.	6
2	6V	12
3	(sc,V)*6	18
4	(2sc,V)*6	24
5	(3sc,V)*6	30
6	(4sc,V)*6	36
7-16	36sc	36

Finish and check

Turn R7 through BLO for the base edge. All other rounds both loops. Leave open, weave ends. Chain60 in white, return59slst, fasten; thread through alternating R15 gaps, gather and tie. This is a new visual accessory draft: no bag schedule was supplied. Keep the cord and removable bag with the adult display.

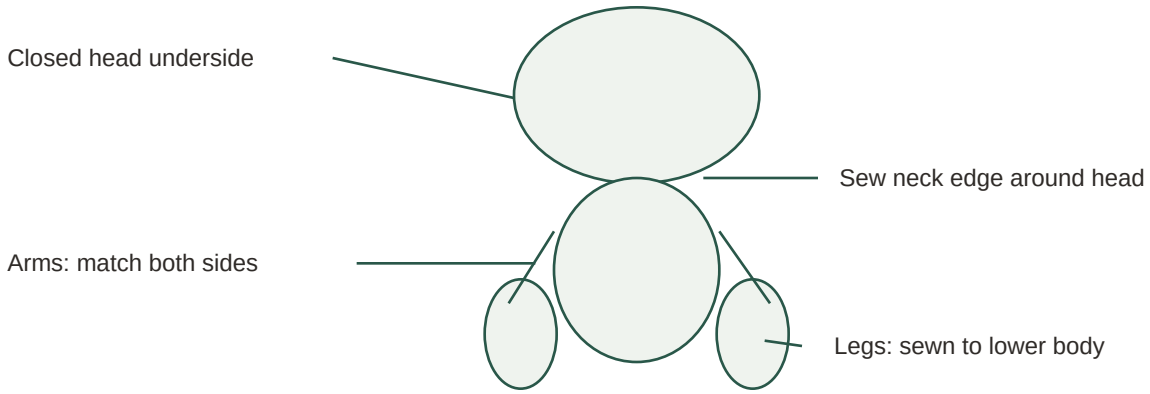
Assemble and compare

Sew both leg seam-tops at body R8-R9, arms at body R21-R22 and tail at lower back R8-R9. Pin all of them before sewing so the paws line up. Pin the closed head underside over the 24-top neck, match the face to the belly, then stitch the full neck perimeter twice.

Pin the muzzle low on the head, lightly fill it and sew the whole perimeter. Embroider a peach nose, short mouth and two eyes at the stated line. Add short yarn whiskers as stitches anchored at both ends, not projecting fishing line. Pin the ears symmetrically, then sew each entire flattened bottom edge. Embroider two or three short toe marks on each white paw. Do not pull embroidery so tightly that the plush tears or thins.

For Christmas, trial-fit the new hat with ears clear of its opening. Sew it in place for a display; attach the optional pom securely. Place the proposed bag alongside the figure. No claim is made that this newly drafted hat/bag exactly reproduces the photographed accessories.

Construction schematic only. Not to scale; not a test photograph.



Care and display

Check the actual yarn and filling labels. Test cleaning on a separate sample with the same yarn, embroidery and filling before cleaning a figure. Allow the interior to dry fully. No machine-washability, colourfastness or drying time has been established. Keep figures, cords and small accessories in an adult display away from pets and young children. These figures have not been tested as toys, ornaments with hanging loops or pet chew items.

Troubleshooting

Gaps exposing filling: reduce hook size or change yarn and resample. Distorted patch: verify marker position, colour braces and the top count before adding another round. Unequal legs: compare round counts and stuffing before joining. Head leaning: repin the neck seam and redistribute filling before the second securing pass. Hat too loose or tight: change gauge and remake the hat instead of forcing it over ears. Wire-free candy losing its curve: add short hidden shaping tacks; record the change. Do not assume the reference wire method is part of this alternative.

Sample record

Yarn/lot and hook: _____ swatch stitches/cm: _____ rows/cm: _____

Actual head circumference: _____ assembled height: _____ accessory opening: _____

Grams by colour: _____ filling weight: _____ stitch/colour changes: _____

Cleaning sample method/result: _____ seam and display check: _____

Finished photograph references 1

These are two finished views of the same cat. The second view is not a separate pattern or a process photograph.



D01-P001 | page 1
Finished cat with Santa hat and drawstring bag



D01-P002 | page 4
Finished dark plush cat without accessories