Rat Chinese Zodiac Crochet Doll

Doll side and animal side of one design. Reference photos, not proof of physical testing.

Version and test status

Version 1.0 | October 5, 2026. Prototype-ready draft. No physical crochet sample, wash test, child-use test or pet-use test was completed. Repairs and colour interpretations below are proposed, not designer-confirmed errata. Original photographic/chart pages follow the complete reading instructions.

Size, yarn and hooks

The supplied collection states approximately 3 inches (7.6 cm) with 100% cotton at 250 m per 100 g. Finished height and width are not independently verified. Start with 2.2 mm for the head, body, limbs and details; 2.5 mm for the hood. Hooks are starting points. Measure overall height from the lowest foot to the highest ear, horn or costume feature, and measure maximum width. Record head circumference separately. No numerical gauge is supplied: make head rounds 1-7, measure the widest diameter and check that the stitches contain the filling; try the hood over the completed head before decorating. For an approximate rescale, new size / original sample size gives the linear scale factor. Change yarn and hook together, not individual stitch counts. Remake one full head/hood pair and measure it; accessory fit is not guaranteed by the ratio.

Materials and colour plan

Cotton yarn in gray, light pink, beige and brown. Head/limbs: beige; hood: gray; body: gray; fringe: brown. Small additional finishing colours are named with each part. Two pairs of 8 mm half-bead eyes and one 9 mm pink nose. Also use matching embroidery thread, polyester filling, stitch marker, yarn needle, scissors and pins removed before finishing. The reference uses glue for half-bead eyes and plastic noses and optional pink makeup powder for display shading. If substituting embroidery, prototype the face placement; this does not certify a child-safe toy. Yarn usage is not measured. For purchasing, obtain small quantities of each named colour and enough main colour to complete a sample; 250 m/100 g describes yarn density, not the amount consumed.

US terms and working method

MR = magic ring; ch = chain; sc = single crochet; hdc = half double crochet; dc = double crochet; sl st = slip stitch; inc = 2 sc into one base stitch; dec = join two base stitches into one sc; BLO = back loop only; FO = fasten off. Numbers in parentheses are resulting stitch counts. Work continuous spirals unless a row or edge explicitly says otherwise; mark the first stitch and move the marker each round. Chains used only for turning do not count unless stated. Work both loops except the Pig snout BLO round. Use invisible sc decreases if comfortable. Leave long sewing tails for pieces that will be attached.

Head - beige yarn, 2.2 mm hook

1	6 sc in a magic ring. (6)
2	Inc in all 6 stitches. (12)
3	(Sc, inc) 6 times. (18)
4	(Sc, inc, sc) 6 times. (24)
5	(3 sc, inc) 6 times. (30)
6	(2 sc, inc, 2 sc) 6 times. (36)
7	(5 sc, inc) 6 times. (42)
8-13	Sc in every stitch for 6 rounds. (42 each round)
14	(5 sc, dec) 6 times. (36)
15	(2 sc, dec, 2 sc) 6 times. (30)
16	(3 sc, dec) 6 times. (24)
17	(Sc, dec, sc) 6 times. (18). Stuff the head.
18	(Sc, dec) 6 times. (12)
19	Dec 6 times. (6). Close the remaining opening with the tail.

Add any eyes that require access before narrowing. For glued half-bead eyes, arrange them after assembly. Round 19 is the closing decrease round printed as R24 in the supplied base. Pull through the six remaining front loops and secure the tail inside.

Costume hood - gray yarn, 2.5 mm hook

1	6 sc in a magic ring. (6)
2	Inc in all 6 stitches. (12)
3	(Sc, inc) 6 times. (18)
4	(Sc, inc, sc) 6 times. (24)
5	(3 sc, inc) 6 times. (30)
6	(2 sc, inc, 2 sc) 6 times. (36)
7	(5 sc, inc) 6 times. (42)
8-14	Sc in every stitch for 7 rounds. (42 each round)
15	Sl st in all 42 stitches. Leave a long sewing tail. (42 slip stitches)

Keep the hood unstuffed. Its larger hook is intended to help it fit over the head. The doll face remains exposed at the opening; the animal face is placed on the opposite hood surface. Do not treat the hat as tested removable clothing. Test-fit before stitching it on.

Tiny body - gray yarn, 2.2 mm hook

1	8 sc in a magic ring. (8)
2	Inc in every stitch. (16)
3	(6 sc, dec) twice. (14)
4-5	Sc in every stitch for 2 rounds. (14 each round). Leave a long tail and lightly stuff.

Keep the 14-stitch neck edge open for sewing to the head. Filling should be contained without pushing the neck edge outward.

Legs - make 2 in beige

1	6 sc in MR. (6)
2	Sc around. (6)

Leave a tail. Keep them lightly shaped without bulky filling; sew the openings securely to the body.

Arms - make 2 in beige

1	5 sc in MR. (5)
2	Sc around. (5)

Leave tails; keep arms small and softly shaped.

Five-strand fringe - brown yarn, 2.2 mm hook

Ch 10 for the base, then ch 6 for the first strand. Sl st in the second strand chain and sc in the next 4 chains. Skip the nearest base chain and sl st in the next base chain. Repeat four times: sc in the next base chain, ch 6, sl st in the second new chain, sc in the next 4 new chains, sl st in the next base chain. This uses ten base chains across five strands. Leave a sewing tail. Pin the fringe around the exposed doll face, then sew its foundation to the head without burying the strand tips.

Outer ears - make 2 in gray

1	6 sc in MR. (6)
2	Inc 6 times. (12)
3	(Sc, inc) 6 times. (18)
4-6	Sc around for 3 rounds. (18 each)
7	(Sc, dec) 6 times. (12)
8	Dec 6 times. (6)

Fasten off with a sewing tail; flatten each ear without stuffing.

Inner ears - make 2 in light pink

1	6 sc in MR. (6)
2	Inc, hdc, 2 dc in the next stitch, hdc, inc, sl st. (9 worked stitches)

Fasten off with a sewing tail. The last slip stitch is included in 9.

Tail

With gray and the 2.2 mm hook, ch 10. Fasten off with a long sewing tail. This is a chain tail; leave it unstuffed.

Animal costume assembly

Sew the outer ears to the hood around rounds 7-8, then centre and sew one inner ear to each. Place the animal eyes near hood rounds 9-10 with roughly four stitches between them. Centre a 9 mm pink nose near rounds 12-13 and embroider three black whiskers on each side. Complete the common head/body assembly below.

Common doll assembly

Arrange the fringe on the skin-colour head and sew its foundation. Pin the hood so the doll face is exposed and the costume features point away from that opening. Pin the body centrally beneath the head, then attach its open neck edge with small, even stitches. Attach both legs near body rounds 1-2 and one arm on each side. Attach the tail on the animal side. Sew the hood around its opening without stretching it. Embroider doll eyebrows in brown near head rounds 8-9; position doll eyes as described for the animal. Add optional display cheek shading only after testing the product on spare yarn. Hide and secure all tails and remove every pin. Check both views before tying the final sewing knots. These common joining steps are repeated here because later animals in the supplied PDF refer back to the Rat base.

Count and construction notes

The head closing round printed as R24 follows R18 directly; it is treated as round 19 here. No extra rounds 19-23 are added.

Fit and finishing checks

The hood should sit over the head without flattening its round shape. Check that the animal face and doll face are not crowded by seams. Compare paired ears/horns and limb positions before sewing. Match each count at the end of a shaping round; stop at a mismatch and trace consumed base stitches before adding another round. If a decorated piece buckles, unpick and redistribute its seam rather than forcing it flat. Resting upright is not verified; use a suitable display support if needed. Record actual size, yarn consumed and any adjustments when sampling.

Care and use

These miniature dolls are decorative display projects, not tested pet chew toys or certified infant toys. Keep glued parts, loose strands and any wire away from pets and young children. Inspect seams and fittings before handling, and retire damaged pieces from display. Follow yarn and component care instructions; there is no verified assembled wash method. Test cleaning on a spare piece first, avoid soaking glued components without manufacturer guidance and support the shape while drying. Cotton fibre alone does not establish washability of the finished doll.

Photographic and chart reference pages

The following unaltered pages retain the supplied construction charts, actual assembly photos and original wording. Rat base pages are included wherever the selected animal refers to them. Use the expanded instructions above for the proposed corrections; colour or count conflicts in the reference pages are not a second verified version.

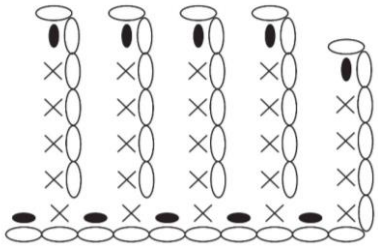
Rat

Materials:

1. Crochet hook size 2.2mm (no.3/0) and 2.5mm (no.4/0)
2. 100% Cotton yarn(250m/100gr) with color: beige, gray, light pink and brown
3. Two pair of half bead eyes size 8mm
4. Pink plastic nose size 9mm
5. Brown and black embroidery thread
6. Pink blush makeup powder
7. Polyester fiberfill
8. Yarn needle
9. Glue

Head: (Crochet hook no.3/0)
R1: With beige yarn, 6sc in a magic ring [6]
R2: inc 6 times [12]
R3: (1sc, inc) 6 times [18]
R4: (1sc, inc, 1sc) 6 times [24]
R5: (3sc, inc) 6 times [30]
R6: (2sc, inc, 2sc) 6 times [36]
R7: (5sc, inc) 6 times [42]
R8-R13: sc in each st around [42]
R14: (5sc, dec) 6 times [36]
R15: (2sc, dec, 2sc) 6 times [30]
R16: (3sc, dec) 6 times [24]
R17: (1sc, dec, 1sc) 6 times [18]
Staff head firmly.
R18: (1sc, dec) 6 times [12]
R24: dec 6 times [6]
Fasten off and weave in ends.

Hair: With brown yarn, (Crochet hook no.3/0)
10ch (base), 6ch, sl st in the second chain from the hook, 4sc, skip 1 st,
sl st in next st, (1sc in next st, 6ch, sl st in the second chain from the hook, 4sc, sl st in next st) 4 times.
Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.



Hat: (Crochet hook no.4/0)
R1: With gray yarn, 6sc in a magic ring [6]
R2: inc 6 times [12]
R3: (1sc, inc) 6 times [18]
R4: (1sc, inc, 1sc) 6 times [24]
R5: (3sc, inc) 6 times [30]
R6: (2sc, inc, 2sc) 6 times [36]
R7: (5sc, inc) 6 times [42]
R8-R14: sc in each st around [42]
R15: sl st 42 times [42]
Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.

Ear-part A (Make2): (Crochet hook no.3/0)
R1: With gray yarn, 6sc in a magic ring [6]
R2: inc 6 times [12]
R3: (1sc, inc) 6 times [18]
R4-R6: sc in each st around [18]
R7: (1sc, dec) 6 times [12]
R8: dec 6 times [6]
Fasten off and fold in half.

Ear-part B (Make2): (Crochet hook no.3/0)
R1: With light pink yarn, 6sc in a magic ring [6]
R2: inc, hdc, 2dc in next st, hdc, inc, sl st [9]
Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.

Body: (Crochet hook no.3/0)
R1: With gray yarn, 8sc in a magic ring [8]
R2: inc 8 times [16]
R3: (6sc, dec) 2 times [14]
R4-R5: sc in each st around [14]
Fasten off and stuff.

Tail: With gray yarn (Crochet hook no.3/0)
10ch
Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.

Leg (Make2): (Crochet hook no.3/0)
R1: With beige yarn, 6sc in a magic ring [6]
R2: sc in each st around [6]
Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.

Arm (Make2): (Crochet hook no.3/0)
R1: With beige yarn, 5sc in a magic ring [5]
R2: sc in each st around [5]
Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.

Assembly:

1. Sew the ear-part A to the hat, somewhere at rounds 7-8.
2. Sew the ear-part B to the ear-part A.
3. Attach 8mm half bead eyes to the hat, somewhere at round 9-10 with 4 sts.
4. Attach 9mm plastic nose to the hat, somewhere at round 12-13.
5. Embroider 3 whiskers with black embroidery thread beside the nose.
6. Sew the hair to the head.
7. Attach the hat to the head.
8. Sew the body to the head.
9. Sew the tail to the body.
10. Sew the legs to the body, somewhere at round 1-2.
11. Sew the arms to the body.
12. Embroider the brow with brown thread to the head, somewhere at round 8-9.
13. Attach 8mm plastic eyes to the head, somewhere at round 10-11.
14. Use pink blush makeup powder to make the rosy cheek on the doll’s cheek.