Colourful Big Cat Ball: Crochet Pattern Guide



One stuffed design | All 19 rounds | Free PDF
Prototype-ready, untested guide. Supervise any considered play.

Materials, status and stitches

Version 1.0 | November 3, 2026 | Prototype-ready, untested guide. One stuffed ball design. No independent crochet, cleaning, durability or animal-use testing has been performed. Big Ball is the input’s name, not a verified diameter.

Reference hook: 3.25 mm (US D). The source does not specify yarn weight, fibre, yardage or gauge. Proposed sampling choice: smooth, firmly plied worsted yarn in one multicoloured strand, adjusted with the hook to obtain close single crochet stitches. This is a starting choice, not an identified photo yarn. Avoid yarn that sheds or separates easily. Use a yarn needle, marker, scissors, tape measure and plain fibre filling. No exact yarn or stuffing consumption is known; record actual use. The photographed colour placement cannot be promised.

Default guide uses plain fibre filling only. The input mentions optional catnip; no loose-catnip addition, pouch, catnip amount or access opening is supplied here. Do not add rattles, pellets, squeakers, bells, beads, tails, strings, glued parts or detachable trim.

US terms: ch chain; sc single crochet; inc 2 sc in one stitch; dec single crochet 2 together; sl st slip stitch; rnd round. Sc: insert under both top loops, draw up loop, yarn over and draw through both loops. Dec: insert into next stitch and draw up loop, insert into following stitch and draw up loop, yarn over through all 3 loops. Inc consumes 1 old stitch and produces 2; dec consumes 2 and produces 1.

Gauge, dimensions and construction

No source gauge or finished size is provided. Make a swatch at least 20 sc wide and 20 rows high in the proposed yarn/hook. Measure a central relaxed area, record stitches and rows per cm, then inspect the fabric while gently stretched. Change hook/yarn and resample if the intended filling can work through the gaps. Dense fabric alone is not a chew-proof or safety guarantee.

The widest round has 36 stitches. A planning approximation is circumference C = 36 / g cm, where g is measured sc per cm; approximate circular diameter D = 36 / (pi x g). At a hypothetical 2.2 sc/cm, C is 16.4 cm and D is 5.2 cm. This is an arithmetic illustration, NOT a specified gauge, finished size or safe minimum. Filling and round height alter the result. Measure actual widest circumference and maximum length after filling, without compressing the toy.

For a first size adjustment, keep all counts and sample a different yarn/hook; predicted width scales inversely with stitch gauge. Do not choose a smaller toy merely to hit a number. No graded counts or tested size range is supplied. The finished toy must not be small enough for the individual cat to swallow. If suitability is uncertain, keep the sample for display and choose another toy.

Construction: six increase rounds form the first end; eight even rounds build the body; five decrease rounds narrow the second end. Eight even rounds may produce a rounded or slightly elongated shape depending on row gauge and filling. Do not promise a perfect sphere. Continuous spiral rounds without turning are an explicit proposed interpretation because the source does not state joins between rounds.

Start and increase: rounds 1-6

Use one yarn throughout. If using multicoloured yarn, let its colour changes happen naturally; there is no prescribed stripe schedule or separate colour seam. Start each round at the marker and move it to the first new stitch. Do not add a chain or join between spiral rounds.

Round 1: make a magic ring, work 6 sc into it and pull the ring closed. Count 6. Alternative: ch 2 and work 6 sc into the second chain from the hook. Secure the starting tail inside through several stitch bodies before the opening becomes inaccessible, without leaving an exposed loop.

Round 2: 2 sc in each of the 6 stitches. Count 12.

Round 3: repeat [sc in next stitch, inc in next stitch] 6 times. Consume 12, produce 18.

Round 4: repeat [sc in next 2 stitches, inc in next stitch] 6 times. Consume 18, produce 24.

Round 5: repeat [sc in next 3 stitches, inc in next stitch] 6 times. Consume 24, produce 30.

Round 6: repeat [sc in next 4 stitches, inc in next stitch] 6 times. Consume 30, produce 36. Check the start ring is closed and the beginning tail contained. Do not add an extra increase round.

Body and decrease: rounds 7-19

Rounds 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14: sc once in each stitch, 36 sc per round. These are EIGHT rounds, totalling 288 sc; moving the marker does not add a stitch.

Round 15: repeat [sc in next 4 stitches, dec over next 2] 6 times. Consume 36, produce 30.

Round 16: repeat [sc in next 3 stitches, dec over next 2] 6 times. Consume 30, produce 24.

Round 17: repeat [sc in next 2 stitches, dec over next 2] 6 times. Consume 24, produce 18.

Add plain fibre filling now, using small portions distributed throughout. Stop when the shape holds gently without forcing the stitches apart. Inspect every part of the shell for gaps or exposed filling. If filling can emerge, remove it and revise yarn/hook/fabric; adding more does not fix the problem. Do not insert a hidden object to hold the shape.

Round 18: repeat [sc in next stitch, dec over next 2] 6 times. Consume 18, produce 12. Adjust filling only if needed, keeping it clear of the hook and opening.

Round 19: dec over each successive pair of stitches, 6 times. Consume 12, produce 6. All 19 rounds produce 504 sc/increase/decrease top stitches in total. This is an arithmetic check, not a yarn-use estimate.

Close, finish and check

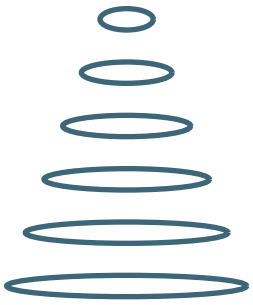
The input ends with alternating slip stitches. This guide instead proposes an explicit draw-closed finish so the remaining six-stitch opening is addressed. It is an untested finishing variation, not verified errata. After round 19, cut a tail long enough for closure and burying, approximately 20 cm as an allowance, and draw it through the last working loop. Do not work a 20th shaping round.

Thread the tail into the blunt needle. Pass under the front loop of each of the six remaining stitches in order, then draw the opening closed without snapping the yarn. Secure the tail through adjacent stitch bodies and bury it in more than one direction, leaving no exposed tail or loop. Inspect the closure from several angles while gently manipulating the sample. This procedure does not certify seam retention.

If the opening remains visible, loosen and resew through all six loops rather than covering it with a bead or glued patch. If the fabric splits or pulls, revise the yarn/tension and make a new sample. Remove every needle, pin and marker. Verify that the starting ring is closed, both tails are contained, and filling is not accessible.

No separate panels are sewn together. No unseen reverse photo or construction-stage photo is supplied. The schematic below is an explanatory count map, not a photograph or proof of tested shape.

EXPLANATORY COUNT MAP - NOT TO SCALE OR A TESTED SHAPE



R1-6: 6 > 12 > 18 > 24 > 30 > 36

R7-14: 36 each (8 rounds)

R15-19: 30 > 24 > 18 > 12 > 6

Fill after R17; close the final 6 loops.

Care, play and sample record

Choose play items for the individual cat’s size and behaviour. Dense crochet can be torn, and yarn or filling may be swallowed. Supervise considered play, inspect before and after, and remove the toy at once if stitches, closure or starting ring open, filling emerges, yarn frays or the cat starts chewing or pulling strands. Store it out of reach after play. It is not a chew toy, dog toy or an indestructible product. Do not add a string and leave it hanging.

Follow the actual yarn and filling labels; test a separate swatch and filling sample before cleaning the whole item. No machine-wash, drying-time, colourfastness or shape-retention result is established. Dry fully before storage or any considered use. Cleaning does not repair damaged stitches; discard the toy if damage exposes yarn ends or filling.

Record yarn brand/fibre/lot____ hook____ swatch stitches/rows per cm____ actual widest circumference____ actual maximum length____ actual yarn grams/metres____ filling type/grams____ starting ring____ closing seam____ exposed loops/fill check____ cleaning test____ individual suitability decision____.

Care references checked November 3, 2026: American Humane Society, Choosing Safe Toys for Pets, https://www.americanhumane.org/public-education/choosing-safe-toys-for-pets/ ; Cats Protection, Cats and Play, https://www.cats.org.uk/help-and-advice/cat-behaviour/cats-and-play . These provide general guidance, not testing or certification of this pattern.