Crochet Pet Christmas Baubles

Shih Tzu, poodle and calico cat



Original finished reference, p. 117

Three independently drafted flat ornaments in US crochet terms. The original issue photo illustrates the animal looks. The written steps make a simpler two-disc version.

Materials and common base

Use smooth DK cotton or acrylic, a 3 mm hook as a starting point, a marker, a blunt needle, embroidery yarn and a small amount of fibre fill. Make a flat swatch of the first four rounds and record the diameter. Finished size and yarn usage depend on your gauge. Each ornament uses two matching discs. Use tighter fabric if filling shows through. Work in US terms in a continuous spiral and mark the first stitch. Ch = chain, sc = single crochet, inc = 2 sc in one stitch, dec = sc two stitches together, sl st = slip stitch. Turning chains do not count. In a magic ring, work the first stitches around the adjustable loop and pull its tail snug. Secure tails inside.

Make two discs per ornament. R1: 6 sc in a magic ring (6). R2: inc in each stitch (12). R3: [sc, inc] six times (18). R4: [2 sc, inc] six times (24). Sl st to the next stitch and fasten off. Leave a long sewing tail on the back disc. These steps give matching 24-stitch edges. To enlarge the disc, add one plain sc before each increase on every extra round. Make both discs the same size and scale the face placement by eye.

Embroider two small dark ovals above the muzzle on the front disc. Use short satin stitches and secure the thread on the reverse. Mark the centre line before attaching parts. Sew all trim to the front before joining the discs.

Shih Tzu ornament

Use tan for both discs. Make two short ears in dark brown. Ch 4. Row 1: sc from the second ch across (3). Rows 2–3: ch 1, turn, 3 sc. Row 4: ch 1, turn, dec, sc (2). Fasten off. Sew each foundation near an upper side of the face. Fold the tips down and tack them. Make a cream muzzle with 6 sc in a ring and inc in each stitch on the next round (12). Sl st and leave a tail. Sew it to the lower centre. Add two cream backstitch lines down from the forehead and embroider a short brown nose and mouth over the muzzle. Use the common eye placement.



Original Shih Tzu. Compare the short muzzle and drooping ears. Use the flat ears and embroidered face from this guide. Issue p. 118.

Poodle ornament

Use pink for both discs. Make two pink ears. Ch 5. Row 1: sc from the second ch across (4). Rows 2–4: ch 1, turn, 4 sc. Row 5: ch 1, turn, dec twice (2). Fasten off. Sew the foundation at each side of the face and tack the tips against the sides. To add texture, work three short loose surface stitches across each ear and anchor each at both ends. Make a paler muzzle with 6 sc in a ring and inc in each stitch on the next round (12). Sl st, sew to the lower centre and embroider a nose and eyes. Optional flat bow. Ch 7 in contrast, sc from the second ch across (6), ch 1, turn and sc across again (6). Cinch the centre with yarn and sew to the face below the muzzle.



Original poodle. Compare the pink palette and low ear placement. The guide uses small surface stitches for texture. Issue p. 119.

Calico cat ornament

Use cream for both discs. Make two triangle ears. Ch 5. Row 1: sc from the second ch across (4). Row 2: ch 1, turn, dec twice (2). Row 3: ch 1, turn, dec (1). Use ginger for one and charcoal for the other. Sew each foundation to the upper edge with the point extending beyond the disc. For one cheek patch, work 6 sc in a magic ring in ginger. Sl st and fasten off. Repeat in charcoal for a second small patch. Sew them at different heights on the face and add a pink nose, dark mouth and two short whisker lines at each side. Use the common eye placement, choosing a thread colour that stands out against each patch.



Original calico. Compare the pointed ears and patch placement. The guide adds its patches separately. Issue p. 120.

Join and hang

Place the discs with their wrong sides together. Whipstitch one front stitch to one back stitch around the edge. After about three quarters of the seam, insert a small, flat amount of filling and finish the join. Secure and bury ends. For the hanger, join yarn at the top seam, ch 15, and sl st to the same seam area through both disc edges. Fasten off, weave both ends into the seam and test the loop gently over a table. Keep the ornaments and loops out of reach of pets. Check the finished size, seam and hanging position before making a set. This draft has no measured size, yardage or physical testing.