Autumn Crochet Pumpkin Doll



Finished reference doll from the supplied PDF.

Free PDF | Version 1.0 | US crochet terms
Prototype-ready draft. Original photo references illustrate the pumpkin palette, hair and finishing details.

Before you start

This US-terms draft makes a display doll with separate sewn limbs, a fitted hair cap, an open-backed dress sewn closed, green slip-on shoes and a small ribbed pumpkin. The supplied photos illustrate Elena Bondarenko’s original doll. Captions identify differences in construction.

Use smooth sport-weight cotton or cotton-blend yarn. Allow 120 m skin A, 80 m cream B, 90 m orange C, 35 m sage green D, 130 m light brown E for hair and 30 m mustard F. These are purchasing allowances. Use a little dark smooth thread for the embroidered eyes, brows and mouth. Gather a 2.25 mm starting hook, blunt yarn needle, locking markers, scissors, pins and polyester stuffing.

Target gauge: 26 sc and 28 rounds per 10 cm in firm, lightly stuffed fabric. Aim for a roughly 22–26 cm display doll, depending on yarn and filling. Measure from crown to sole after assembly. Check that filling stays hidden when the fabric is gently stretched. A smaller hook gives denser stitches.

To scale the doll, change yarn and hook together and retain all counts. Estimate head diameter as 48 divided by stitches per cm, then divided by 3.14. Try the shoes on the actual foot. Fit the dress to the actual torso and record any changes. Physical fit and care are untested.

Stitch key and making order

Ch = chain. Sc = single crochet. Hdc = half double crochet. Dc = double crochet. Sl st = slip stitch. Inc = 2 sc in one stitch. Dec = sc two stitches together. BLO = back loop only. FLO = front loop only. Brackets mark repeats. Counts in parentheses are the total after the round or row.

Work continuous rounds with both loops unless told otherwise. Move a marker to the first stitch of each round. For decreases, insert the hook through the front loops of the next two stitches, pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through both loops. A magic ring may be replaced with ch 2 and the starting stitches in the second chain from hook. Secure the starting tail inside the piece.

Order: legs and arms, torso, head and face, hair, shoes, then dress. Sew the legs to the body and try the dress before attaching the arms and head permanently. Keep the head seam accessible until the face and hair are finished. The doll is designed to sit or lean against a display support.

Legs and arms

Legs, make 2. Start in B at the toe. R1: 6 sc in ring (6). R2: inc around (12). R3: [sc, inc] × 6 (18). R4–5: 18 sc. R6: 3 dec, 12 sc (15). R7: [3 sc, dec] × 3 (12). The narrowed side is the toe. R8–16: 12 sc.

R17: 12 sc BLO. Change to A on the final pull-through. R18–25: 12 sc in A. Add filling to the foot and lower leg. Keep the top softly filled. Flatten with the toe pointing forward and sc through both layers across the opening (6). Leave a sewing tail.

Stocking trim: join B to a saved front loop of R16. Repeat [ch 2, sl st in the next saved loop] all the way around (12 small arches). Weave in the ends.

Arms, make 2 in A. R1: 6 sc in ring (6). R2: [sc, inc] × 3 (9). R3–5: 9 sc. R6: [sc, dec] × 3 (6). R7–19: 6 sc. Pad only the hand. Flatten the opening and sc through both layers (3). Leave a sewing tail.



Compare the palms and arm length. *(Original PDF p. 7)*



Compare the stocking height and leg proportions. *(Original PDF p. 9)*

Torso and limb placement

In B, begin at the lower body. R1: 6 sc in ring (6). R2: inc around (12). R3: [sc, inc] × 6 (18). R4: [2 sc, inc] × 6 (24). R5: [3 sc, inc] × 6 (30). R6–12: 30 sc.

R13: [3 sc, dec] × 6 (24). R14–17: 24 sc. Change to A at the end of R17. R18: [2 sc, dec] × 6 (18). R19–21: 18 sc. R22: [sc, dec] × 6 (12). R23–24: 12 sc. Leave this neck opening with a long sewing tail. Stuff firmly enough to hold the shape.

Baste each six-stitch leg closure across the lower front around R4–6. Keep both toes forward. Sit the body down and adjust both seams before fastening them. Mark the arm positions around R18–20, one on each side. Baste the arms for a dress fitting, then remove the basting until dressing.

The original reference has limbs joined during crocheting. This draft uses sewn limb seams. Compare the overall silhouette and stocking height in the photo.



Original body silhouette. The draft uses separately sewn legs and arms. *(Original PDF p. 12)*

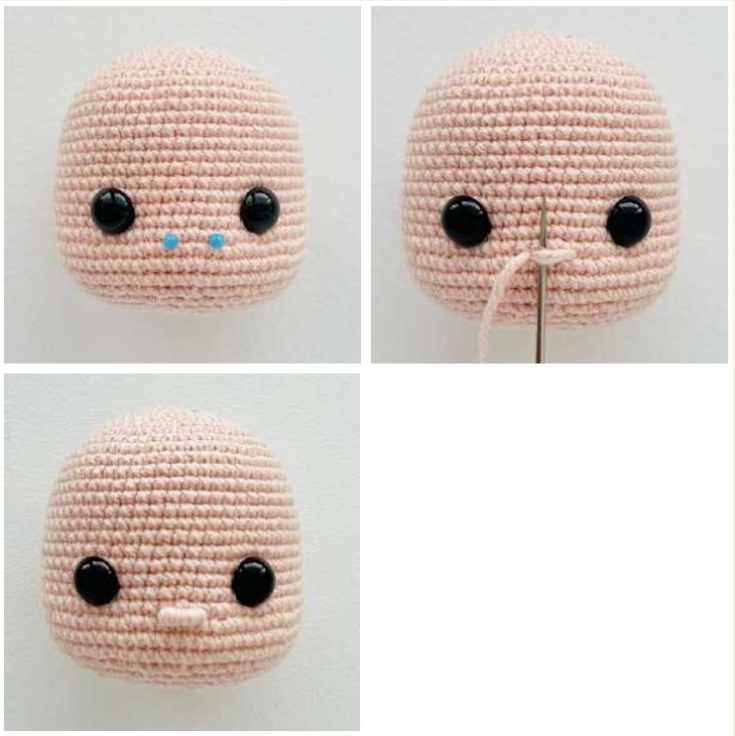
Head and embroidered face

Head in A, from crown. R1: 6 sc in ring (6). R2: inc around (12). R3: [sc, inc] × 6 (18). R4: [2 sc, inc] × 6 (24). R5: [3 sc, inc] × 6 (30). R6: [4 sc, inc] × 6 (36). R7: [5 sc, inc] × 6 (42). R8: [6 sc, inc] × 6 (48). R9–16: 48 sc.

R17: [6 sc, dec] × 6 (42). R18: [5 sc, dec] × 6 (36). R19: [4 sc, dec] × 6 (30). R20: [3 sc, dec] × 6 (24). Start filling evenly. R21: [2 sc, dec] × 6 (18). R22: [sc, dec] × 6 (12). Leave open. Add more filling if needed without stretching the stitches.

Pin the front centre. Mark eyes around R13–14, beginning about eight stitches apart, then adjust by looking at the head from the front. Use dark smooth thread to make small filled ovals. Add one short curved brow above each eye, a few skin-tone stitches for a little nose and a short muted-pink mouth below it. Secure and bury all ends through the neck opening.

The source photos show the original doll with inserted eyes and sculpted cheeks. Use them to compare facial spacing. Follow the embroidery method here for this draft.



Use the reference for face spacing. Embroider the eyes for this draft. *(Original PDF p. 15)*

Hair cap and curls

In E, repeat head R1–8 to reach 48 sc. R9–10: 48 sc. Fasten off with a sewing tail. Try the cap on the head and check that it follows the crown without exposing scalp at the back. Add an even round for more depth or remove one for less depth.

Long curls, make 16 in E. Ch 27. Starting in the second chain from hook, work 2 sc in each of the 26 chains (52). Leave a tail. Let the strip coil, then twist it gently in the direction it naturally turns. A looser strip may need 3 sc in each chain for a tighter curl. Make one trial curl first and record the version you choose.

Short front curls, make 6. Ch 11. Starting in the second chain, work 2 sc in each chain (20). Leave a tail. Pin the 16 long curls along the lower side and back edge of the cap. Pin the six short curls across the front. Adjust the gap over the forehead before sewing.

Sew every curl base securely to the cap, then tack the first few stitches of long curls where they lie against the cap. Sew the cap perimeter to the head with matching thread. Keep the eye area clear. The reference uses strands worked into saved loops. This version uses individually sewn curls.



Original cap and chain strands. *(Original PDF p. 16)*



Compare curl placement at the sides and forehead. *(Original PDF p. 18)*

Orange dress and cream ruffles

Try the foundation around the actual upper torso. It should overlap slightly at the back. In C, ch 31. Row 1: sc in the second chain and each remaining chain (30). Rows 2–5: ch 1, turn, 30 sc. The ch 1 never counts as a stitch.

Row 6: ch 2, turn, 2 dc in each stitch (60). The ch 2 does not count. Rows 7–11: ch 2, turn, 60 dc. Row 12: ch 1, turn, 60 sc BLO. Change to B. Row 13: ch 1, turn, [sc in next stitch, skip next stitch, 5 dc in next stitch, skip next stitch] × 15 (90 worked stitches). Fasten off.

Waist straps, make 2 in C. Ch 11. Starting in the second chain, 10 sc. Ch 1, turn and work 10 sc once more. Fasten off. Baste each short end to the top bodice edge so the straps pass over the shoulders. Change the foundation length by two chains at a time if the fit requires it.

For each cream shoulder ruffle, join B to one long edge of a strap. Ch 1, work 2 sc in each of its 10 row-1 stitches (20). Ch 2, turn, 2 dc in each stitch (40). Fasten off. Repeat on the other strap. Angle the ruffles outward when attaching the straps.

Compare the dress length against the doll before finishing. Add or remove even 60-dc rows in the skirt. For another bodice width, choose a foundation count N divisible by 6. Row 6 has 2N stitches. Rows 7–12 keep 2N. Row 13 repeats its four-stitch sequence N/2 times and makes 3N stitches. This draft has straps and sewn back edges. The original dress photos show its raglan neckline and trim.



Original raglan dress and hem. *(Original PDF p. 21)*



Original cream flounces. The draft puts ruffles on straps. *(Original PDF p. 22)*

Green slip-on shoes

Make 2 in D from the toe. R1: 6 sc in ring (6). R2: inc around (12). R3: [sc, inc] × 6 (18). R4–5: 18 sc. Try over the stuffed foot. It should slide on without stretching the foot. If tight, remake the shoe with a hook 0.25–0.5 mm larger. If loose, try a smaller hook.

To make the heel, work rows over 12 stitches, leaving the other six stitches unworked as the top toe opening. Row 1: ch 1, turn, 12 sc. Rows 2–5: ch 1, turn, 12 sc. Fold the final row in half and sew its first six stitches to its last six stitches to close the heel seam. Keep that seam outside for the fitting, then turn the shoe so it sits inside.

Join D near the heel seam and work a relaxed sc edge around the opening. Start with one stitch in each toe stitch and one in each row-end along the two sides. Add or remove a stitch if the edge cups or flares. Record the total after the shoe fits and use that total on its pair.

For a deeper heel, add two even rows before the heel seam. For more toe room add an even 18-sc round before making the heel. The original shoe photos show an oval sole and a tie. These slip-ons are shaped from the toe and stay on through their fit.



Compare the green shoes against the cream stockings. The draft uses slip-ons. *(Original PDF p. 24)*

Small ribbed pumpkin

In F, R1: 6 sc in ring (6). R2: inc around (12). R3: [sc, inc] × 6 (18). R4: [2 sc, inc] × 6 (24). R5: [3 sc, inc] × 6 (30). R6–10: 30 sc.

R11: [3 sc, dec] × 6 (24). R12: [2 sc, dec] × 6 (18). Add filling, keeping the ball slightly soft. R13: [sc, dec] × 6 (12). R14: dec around (6). Cut a long tail, thread through the front loops of the six remaining stitches and close.

With a long strand of B, pass the needle through the centre from the base to the crown. Lay the yarn down the outside and pass it through the centre again. Pull gently to indent the surface. Repeat at five evenly spaced positions, giving six segments in total. Secure the yarn and bury the ends.

Stem in D. R1: 4 sc in a ring. R2–4: 4 sc. Flatten the opening and sew to the crown. Leaf in D: ch 7, then sl st in the second ch, sc in the next ch, hdc in each of the next two chains, sc in the next and sl st in the last. Fasten off and sew the leaf base next to the stem.

The reference photo sequence shows a seven-segment pumpkin. Follow six equally spaced shaping wraps for this 30-stitch version. Set it beside the doll or lightly tack it between the hands for a fixed display.



Shaping reference. Make six segments for the draft pumpkin. *(Original PDF p. 26)*

Assembly, fitting and care

Put the dress around the torso with the opening at the back. Set the lower bodice edge at the waist. Sew the two back edges together with a small seam, stopping below the top edge until the straps fit. Baste the front and back strap ends. Put each arm in place under its strap, stitch the arm seam securely to the body, then secure the strap ends above them. Finish the back seam.

Join the 12 head neck stitches to the 12 body neck stitches one to one. Pause to add a little filling at the neck, then complete and reinforce the seam. If the head leans, first check whether the cap and curls are pulling to one side. Adjust the hair before adding more neck filling.

Put on the shoes and check that both heels sit level. Pull out all temporary pins. Tug gently on every sewn part and secure any loose seam. Place the doll on a shelf with support behind the torso or sit it down. The photographs show the reference arrangement.

Care depends on your yarn label. Test a swatch before washing the completed doll. Let washed pieces dry fully before reshaping the curls and skirt. Keep this decorative display out of pets’ reach. The dress, hair, shoes and small pumpkin should be checked on a physical sample before publication.



Finished reference for the colour balance and autumn display. *(Original PDF p. 27)*