Christmas Elf-Style Cat Collar: Craft and Display Guide



One design | Three reference counts | Free PDF
Untested display sample. Closed ring: do not use as a worn cat collar.

Read before making

Version 1.0 | November 3, 2026 | Prototype-ready, untested craft/display guide. One design with three reference counts. No independent crochet, wash or fit testing has been performed. The supplied model photos show the original item; they do not establish safety.

This construction is a continuous yarn ring with NO quick-release mechanism. Make and assess it off-animal as a display sample. Do not put this closed ring over a cat’s head or use it as a worn collar, including for a supervised photograph. Supervision does not add a release. Do not attach tags or a lead, or layer it over a functioning breakaway collar. A separate wearable redesign would need a suitable release and assessment; no such conversion is supplied.

The finished sample can be photographed flat or displayed around an appropriately sized inanimate form, stored away from pets. No bell, pompom, tie, elastic, clip or hidden fastening belongs to this pattern.

Materials, gauge and dimensions

Reference materials: worsted-weight yarn, approximately 25 yards (22.9 metres) stated in the input, and a 4.5 mm hook. The amount is a source estimate, not measured consumption. Buy according to the actual yarn label and sample needs; fibre, skein weight and brand are unspecified. Also use a blunt yarn needle, scissors, markers and tape measure. Use the metric hook size because letter designations vary.

Reference gauge: 8 double crochets and 4 rows over 2.5 by 2.5 inches (6.35 by 6.35 cm). Work a swatch at least 16 dc wide by 8 rows and measure a central area relaxed. Adjust hook or yarn for the intended display size. Small uses hdc for the band, so the dc row gauge does not predict its depth. Measure the completed ring and deepest point separately.

Small: 35 band stitches, 7 points, nominal circumference 10 in (25.4 cm). Medium: 40 stitches, 8 points, nominal 12 in (30.5 cm). Large: 45 stitches, 9 points, nominal 14 in (35.6 cm). These are reference labels, not a breed or pet-fit chart. At 8 dc per 2.5 in, count-only circumferences predict 10.94, 12.5 and 14.06 in; the nominal sizes are therefore not exact gauge results. Chain tension and hdc tension introduce further variation. Record actual dimensions; do not force the ring onto an animal to check size.

US stitches and foundation

US terms: ch = chain; st = stitch; sl st = slip stitch; hdc = half double crochet; dc = double crochet. Turning or lifting chains do not count as band stitches. Work into both top loops unless specified. No turning between rounds.

Sl st: insert hook, draw yarn through the anchor and working loop. Hdc: yarn over, insert hook, draw up a loop, yarn over and draw through all three loops. Dc: yarn over, insert, draw up a loop; yarn over through two loops twice.

Point join: after the third dc of a fan, ch 2 and sl st into the top of that SAME third dc. For this untested interpretation, insert under both top loops of that dc, not into a band stitch. The two chains and joining slip stitch make the tiny tip; they are not another band anchor. Compare the supplied chart.

Chain 35 (40, 45) evenly. Lay the chain flat with no twist and sl st into its first chain to form the ring. This explicit foundation join resolves an omission in the input’s starting-chain line; it is a proposed clarification. The joining slip stitch is not a 36th, 41st or 46th band stitch. Do not add a chain for a closure.

Band round and pointed border

Band round, Small only: ch 1, hdc in the same first foundation chain and in every remaining chain. There must be 35 hdc. Sl st into the first hdc, not the lifting chain.

Band round, Medium or Large: ch 2, dc in the same first foundation chain and in every remaining chain. Count 40 or 45 dc respectively. Sl st into the first dc. Place a marker in band stitch 1. The join is not a new stitch.

Border round, all counts: begin in band stitch 1. Work the following five-anchor unit: sl st in the next unused band stitch; skip the following band stitch; in the next band stitch work 3 dc, ch 2, sl st into the top of the third dc just made, then 2 more dc into the SAME band stitch; skip the following band stitch; sl st in the next band stitch.

Repeat that full unit 7 (8, 9) times in total. The ending slip stitch of one unit and starting slip stitch of the next occupy TWO adjacent band stitches. Do not share an anchor between units. For unit k starting at k=0, anchors 5k+1 and 5k+5 receive sl sts, 5k+2 and 5k+4 are skipped, and 5k+3 receives the five-dc fan.

After the final unit, all 35 (40, 45) band anchors have been accounted for. Close with sl st into the first border sl st, fasten off and bury both tails through stitch bodies. This final closure is a proposed finishing clarification. Counts excluding joins: 7/8/9 fans, 35/40/45 dc, 14/16/18 band-anchor slip stitches, and 7/8/9 tiny two-chain tips. Tip slip stitches are additional to the band-anchor total.

Resize, check and care

For an inanimate display form only, measure the desired inner circumference C in cm. Measure the sample band’s stitches per cm g. Choose N = 5 x round(C x g / 5), then sample N chains and N band stitches. It produces N/5 points. Re-measure because the foundation chain and border may constrain the ring. If it will not slide over the intended display form, choose a different count or form; this is not an animal head-clearance formula.

A count change of 5 adds or removes exactly one fan. Hdc gives a shallower band than dc at comparable tension, but no finished depth is verified. Source timing, kitten/adult suitability and stretch-based fitting claims are not carried forward.

If points are crowded, check five distinct anchors per unit and five dc per fan. If a point is missing, count band stitches before adding the border. If the ring twists, undo the foundation join and rejoin with every chain aligned. If tips look blunt, check that each ch-2 loop is joined to its own third dc, not the underlying band.

Check for loose loops, exposed tails and distortion off-animal. Do not stiffen it with hidden wire or glue. Follow the actual yarn label; clean a separate swatch first and record shrinkage, colour transfer and texture change. No machine-washability or shape retention has been established. Store the craft out of pets’ reach.

Sample record: yarn/fibre/lot____ hook____ dc gauge____ chosen band stitch____ N____ fan count____ measured inner circumference____ band depth____ deepest point____ actual grams/metres____ cleaning result____ construction changes____. Relevant care reference: Cats Protection, Choosing a cat collar, recommends quick-release/snap-opening collars. https://www.cats.org.uk/help-and-advice/caring-for-your-cat/choosing-a-cat-collar

Red elf collar on kitten, finished reference



Original reference only. Photos do not establish safety; the closed-ring guide is for off-animal display.

Green elf collar on seated ginger cat, finished reference



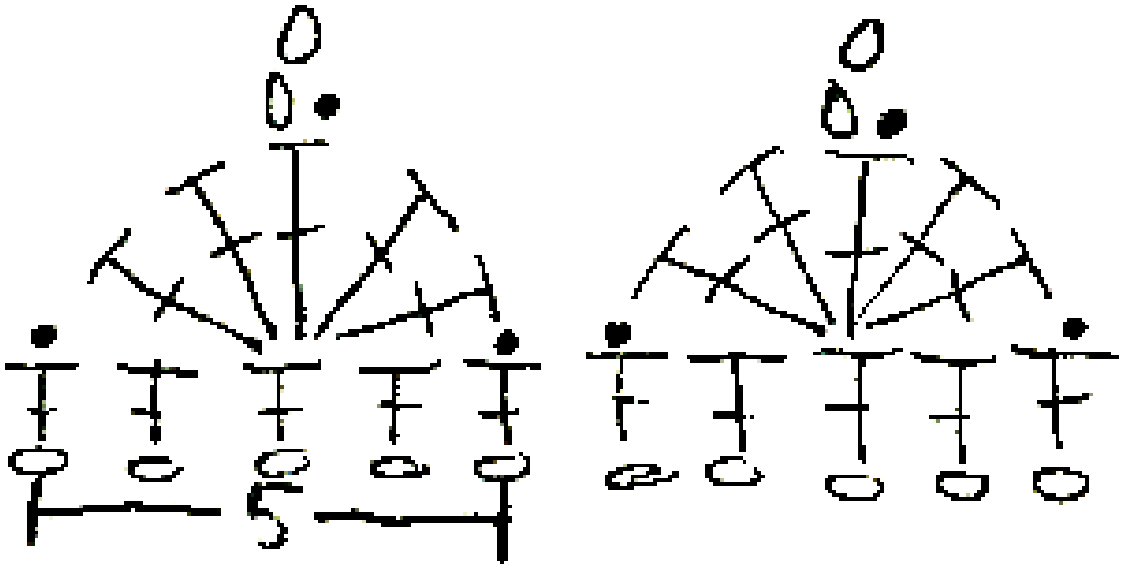
Original reference only. Photos do not establish safety; the closed-ring guide is for off-animal display.

Green collar ring laid flat, finished reference



Original reference only. Photos do not establish safety; the closed-ring guide is for off-animal display.

Supplied stitch chart showing two repeats; not a process photo



Original reference only. Photos do not establish safety; the closed-ring guide is for off-animal display.