Kitty Nap Pad: Felted Star-Stitch Cat Mat Guide



Prepared November 4, 2026 | Untested guide
Reference sizing and sample checks are explained inside.

Status, terms and use

Version 1.0 | November 4, 2026 | Prototype-ready, untested guide. No independent crochet, wash, felting, fit or animal-use test has been completed. Finished photographs are references, not proof of testing. Neither design has stuffing, a hidden insert, rigid support, fringe or ties. Do not add buttons, bells, loose appliques or dangling yarn.

US terms: ch chain; st stitch; sl st slip stitch; sc single crochet; hdc half double crochet; BLO back loop only. Hdc: yarn over, insert hook, draw up a loop, yarn over and pull through all three loops. Sc: insert, draw up a loop, yarn over and pull through both loops. Sl st: draw yarn through the anchor and working loop. Work into both top loops unless BLO is specified.

Inspect both faces, edges and buried tails before considered use and after cleaning. Remove the item if yarn loosens, loops snag claws, fabric is chewed or sections come apart. Lay it flat with access clear, without draping it over or wrapping it around the cat. A textile mat has no verified nonslip backing: assess it on the intended surface and remove it if it shifts or bunches. Let the cat choose whether to use it. No guaranteed acceptance or warmth performance is claimed.

Materials, gauge and the felting plan

Reference: DROPS Extra 0-1502, Kitty Nap Pad. Use 300 g DROPS Snow, colour 30 pastel pink, held TWO strands together throughout, with 10 mm hook as a starting point. Also use markers, blunt yarn needle, scissors and tape. The manufacturer identifies Snow as 100% wool, 50 g/50 m per ball; 300 g is six balls and 300 m of individual strand, or about 150 m of doubled working length before waste. This is the stated amount/purchase plan, not independently measured consumption. Do not substitute superwash or non-felting yarn and expect the same result.

Reference gauge: 7.5 hdc over 10 cm with two strands. First three rounds approximately 12 cm diameter; after round 5 about 20 cm; after round 8 about 32 cm; after round 11 about 42 cm BEFORE felting. Source final diameter about 36 cm AFTER felting. These are target references, not verified results of this guide. Use the metric 10 mm hook rather than conflicting letter labels.

Swatch with the same two strands, hook and stitches, including star-stitch texture. Measure dry relaxed width/length, then felt and dry the swatch using the intended method. Record both directions. Felting is irreversible; do not assume excessive shrinkage can always be stretched back. Do not felt the rectangle blanket as part of this process.

The nominal 42 -> 36 cm change is about 14.3% diameter shrinkage, not a guaranteed rate or a 14.3% area change. For planning from your OWN swatch, retention q = dry felted dimension / dry unfelted dimension; proposed pre-felt target = desired final dimension / q. Felting may be uneven across star and hdc rounds. No tested count grading beyond the eleven-round mat is supplied.

Counting conventions and star stitch

Work in joined rounds from the centre. Do not turn. Keep both strands together in every loop. On hdc rounds, ch 2 is a counted standing hdc, and the round joins with sl st into its second chain. The source uses that convention differently on star-hole filler rounds: those have one counted ch-2 PLUS two actual hdc per star eye. Follow the stated totals rather than adding a hidden extra stitch.

BLO means the back top loop of an underlying hdc. A star eye is the ch-1 space made after drawing through six loops; it is not the starting ring or an hdc top. Mark the eye of the first star so filler stitches do not go into a side loop.

First star on a star round: ch 3. Keep the working loop on hook. Insert into second chain from hook and draw up a loop; repeat into third chain from hook; draw up a loop in BLO of underlying base stitch 1, then BLO of base stitches 2 and 3. You now have 6 loops (working loop plus five pickups). Yarn over, pull through all 6, then ch 1 to make the eye.

Each following star: draw up a loop in previous star eye; draw up a loop under the side strand at the last pickup of that star; draw up a loop in the SAME last base anchor used by that star; draw up a loop in BLO of each of the next 2 unused base stitches. Six loops are on the hook again. Yarn over through all 6, ch 1 for new eye. This clarifies the input’s translated phrase about chains in underlying stitches: draw up loops, do not make separate chains there.

The first star consumes 3 base anchors and each later star advances by 2. Thus odd bases of 45, 73 and 101 produce 22, 36 and 50 stars. At the end of each star round, join with sl st into second chain of its starting ch-3, as stated in the input. Do not add an extra star in the joining chain.

Nap Pad centre: rounds 1-3

Foundation: with two strands together, ch 5 and sl st into first chain to form a ring. No twist.

Round 1: ch 2 (counts as first hdc), work 10 actual hdc around the ring. Join into second chain of starting ch-2. Total 11 counted hdc tops. Secure the start tail without leaving a large accessible loop.

Round 2, BLO: ch 2 counts as the first hdc in underlying stitch 1; work 1 more hdc in that SAME anchor to complete the first increase. Work 2 hdc into each of the other 10 base stitches. Join into second chain. Total 22. Do not count ch-2 and then work 22 extra hdc.

Round 3, BLO: ch 2 plus 1 hdc in the same first anchor; 2 hdc into each of the next 20 anchors; 3 hdc into the LAST anchor. Join into second chain. Total 2 + 40 + 3 = 45 counted tops. Diameter target about 12 cm. The explicit actual-stitch counts here clarify the source’s replace-first-stitch convention; they are not an independent physical test.

Keep the work flat without forced stretching. If it cups or ripples, verify counts, hook, two-strand handling and gauge before continuing. Do not silently insert another increase round.

First star band: rounds 4-6

Round 4, BLO: work first star across base stitches 1-3 using the star instructions above. Work 21 following stars, advancing through the next 2 unused base stitches each time. Total 22 stars; 3 + 21x2 = 45 underlying anchors. Join to second chain of starting ch-3.

Round 5: ch 2 (one counted standing hdc), then work 2 actual hdc into EACH of the 22 star eyes, including the first and last. Join to second chain. Total 1 + 44 = 45 counted hdc. Do not skip the first eye because a standing ch-2 already exists; it supplies the extra odd top needed for the next band. Diameter target about 20 cm.

Round 6, BLO: ch 2 counts for first underlying top; do not work another hdc in that first top. Across the NEXT 42 tops, repeat [2 hdc in next stitch, 2 hdc in next stitch, 1 hdc in next stitch] 14 times. Work 1 hdc into each of final 2 tops. Join to second chain. Consume 1 + 14x3 + 2 = 45 old tops; produce 1 + 14x5 + 2 = 73. This adds 28 stitches. Mark the first counted top and the 14 group boundaries while learning the round.

Second and third star bands: rounds 7-11

Round 7, BLO: first star uses base anchors 1-3; make 35 more stars advancing 2 new anchors each time. Total 36 stars, consuming 3 + 35x2 = 73 anchors. Join to second chain of starting ch-3.

Round 8: ch 2 (counted), 2 actual hdc into every one of 36 star eyes; join to second chain. Total 1 + 72 = 73 counted tops. Diameter target about 32 cm.

Round 9, BLO: ch 2 counts for first underlying top; do not also work into that top. Across NEXT 70 tops repeat [2 hdc in next, 1 hdc in each of next 2, 2 hdc in next, 1 hdc in next] 14 times. Work 1 hdc into each of final 2 tops. Join to second chain. Consume 1 + 14x5 + 2 = 73; produce 1 + 14x7 + 2 = 101. Again 28 increases.

Round 10, BLO: first star uses base anchors 1-3, then 49 following stars each advance 2 new anchors. Total 50 stars, consuming 3 + 49x2 = 101. Join to second chain of starting ch-3.

Round 11: ch 2 (counted), then 2 actual hdc in each of the 50 star eyes; join to second chain. Total 1 + 100 = 101 counted tops. Fasten off and bury both-strand tails through stitch bodies. No extra border or applique is specified. Reference diameter about 42 cm before felting. Measure actual two perpendicular diameters, not just one, and inspect for loose loops before proceeding.

Felting: source methods, sample first

Choose only a method supported by your yarn, appliance instructions and successful swatch. Source settings below are references, not guaranteed timings or results. Felting is deliberate fibre shrinkage, separate from normal later washing. Keep pets away during processing. Remove every pin, needle and marker.

Washing-machine route in the source: approximately 40 minutes at 40 C (104 F), without prewash and not on a wool programme; detergent optional. Use your appliance’s permitted equivalent only after the swatch has been measured. After a completed cycle, check size and texture before deciding whether further felting is needed. Do not assume repeated cycles shrink evenly. Do not add an undocumented hot treatment to force 36 cm.

Tumble-dryer route in the source: thoroughly wet the mat first, then tumble while checking size regularly. No temperature or duration is specified. Follow the appliance and fibre requirements and the settings established on the swatch; do not invent a high-heat target. If yarn or appliance instructions prohibit this use, choose another compatible method or keep it as an explicitly unfelted sample, not a finished 36 cm felted mat. Rewetting and repeating is a source option, not a guarantee.

When the desired sampled firmness/size is reached, gently shape while damp without forcing a heavily shrunken mat to recover. Lay flat to dry fully and measure again in two directions. Record dry dimensions and texture; the supplied finished photos do not document a before/after test. A distorted, stiff or snagging sample should not be passed off as a successful finished mat.

Aftercare and troubleshooting record

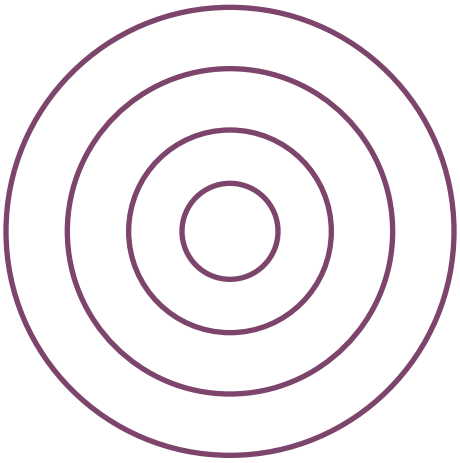
After felting, the source advises subsequent washing as for an ordinary wool garment, not repeated intentional felting. Follow current yarn guidance and your swatch results. No general machine-wash/dryer-safe claim is made. Clean separately at first to assess colour and dimensions, dry fully, and recheck the mat before considered use.

Missing odd stitch after a filler round: count the standing ch-2 PLUS 2 hdc per star eye. Wrong star total: the first star spans 3 anchors, the remainder advance 2 each. Gaps or loose loops: verify six pickups/loops, paired strands and eye placement. Ripples or cupping: check all round totals and your gauge before felting; shrinking is not a guaranteed cure for incorrect counts.

For a felted target different from 36 cm, use your measured retention ratio for planning but do not alter the star counts without developing a separate graded sample. Mixed fibres, superwash finishes or inconsistent strand tension can alter felting. The shelter rectangle has a different care plan and is not a substitute felting swatch.

Record yarn/lot____ hook____ two-strand gauge____ diameters after R3/R5/R8/R11____ star totals22/36/50____ hdc totals11/22/45/45/73/73/101/101____ swatch dry before/after____ method/settings____ actual final dry diameters____ colour/texture____ care plan____ actual yarn use____ snag/edge checks____.

Construction count map



Hdc tops:11 > 22 > 45

Star bands:22 / 36 / 50

Filler tops:45 / 73 / 101

R11 reference:42cm before felting

Felt a separate swatch first.

EXPLANATORY COUNT MAP / NOT TO SCALE / NOT A TESTED SAMPLE

Finished mat reference



Finished reference only. Original image marks retained. This is not a process or before-and-after photograph.