Penguin Crochet Coaster



Free PDF making guide | Version 1.0 | US terms
Untested simpler interpretation. Reference photo differs in some features.

Before you start

Version 1.0 | Prepared November 6, 2026 | US terms. Prototype-ready, untested instructions. The supplied image is a finished reference, not a photograph of a tested sample made from this guide. Its hard eyes and some shapes differ from the simpler written construction below.

This guide includes a six-round circular base, sewn features and embroidery. It does not promise an exact replica. Complete one sample, check its underside and test with an empty cup on a protected table before making a set. These are home accessories, not pet toys.

Materials, size and stitch key

Use category 4 cotton yarn and begin with a 4 mm hook. Black base and optional wings; white belly; orange beak; contrasting eye thread. You also need a blunt tapestry needle, scissors, stitch marker, removable pins and black or contrasting embroidery thread. Use yarn scraps for the small features. No measured yardage or purchasing amount is available; weigh a completed sample before buying for a set. No stuffing, felt, adhesive or hard safety eyes are required.

Size is sample-dependent. The reference suggests roughly 4-5 inches across, but supplies no gauge to support that size. Measure the base diameter edge to edge, excluding ears, after resting flat. Also measure the flat usable area and the actual cup foot. Do not advertise a finished size before sampling.

Gauge record: measure stitches and rows over a flat single-crochet swatch and record per inch, plus the six-round base diameter. To approach a target diameter T from a measured diameter D, the required linear scale is T / D. Choose another yarn/hook combination and resample; this does not validate proportional hook sizing. Alternatively extend the base by the optional round formula on the following page, then reposition the original-size features.

US abbreviations: ch = chain; sc = single crochet; sl st = slip stitch; st = stitch; inc = 2 sc in one stitch; sc2tog = insert hook in next stitch and pull up a loop, repeat in following stitch, yarn over and pull through all 3 loops; FO = fasten off. A magic ring is an adjustable yarn loop; crochet into the loop and pull its tail to close the centre. Secure that tail after finishing.

Circular base and measured resizing

Start with the main colour. Work joined rounds in US terms. A beginning ch 1 lifts the hook and never counts as a stitch. Join to the first sc, not the lifting chain. Mark the first sc and move the marker each round.

Round 1: Make a magic ring, ch 1, work 6 sc into the ring. Pull the centre closed and sl st into the first sc. (6)

Round 2: Ch 1, work 2 sc in each stitch; join. (12)

Round 3: Ch 1, repeat [1 sc, inc] six times; join. (18)

Round 4: Ch 1, repeat [2 sc, inc] six times; join. (24)

Round 5: Ch 1, repeat [3 sc, inc] six times; join. (30)

Round 6: Ch 1, repeat [4 sc, inc] six times; join. (36)

Fasten off. Leave a tail long enough to secure the end through several stitch backs in different directions. Keep the reverse flat. Do not add stuffing.

Optional extension, not part of the six-round reference: for round n after R6, ch 1, repeat [n-2 sc, inc] six times, join. Final count is 6n. Thus R7 is [5 sc, inc] six times (42), consuming 36 existing stitches. R8 is [6 sc, inc] six times (48), consuming 42. Measure after each round and stop when the actual cup foot fits entirely within the flat area. Larger bases retain the same small features unless separately sampled.

Check the fabric after each round. Ripples can indicate excess stitches or loose tension; cupping can indicate missing stitches or tight tension. Recount before changing the schedule. Do not force a severely distorted base flat with heat.

Animal features and assembly

White belly: R1 magic ring, ch 1, 6 sc, join. R2 ch 1, inc in each stitch, join (12). R3 ch 1, [sc, inc] six times, join (18). Fasten off with a sewing tail. This produces a white circle, not the shaped face-and-belly colourwork in the reference.

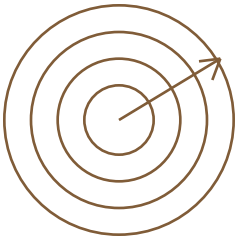
Orange beak: Ch 3; sc in the second chain and the next chain (2). Fasten off with a sewing tail. This is a short flat tab. It is not a fully shaped triangular beak. Sew it securely across its foundation edge.

Optional wings, make two in black: Magic ring, ch 1, 6 sc, join. Fasten off with a sewing tail. Flatten and sew a short arc at each side of the base. Leave the remaining edge free, with no dangling tails.

Pin the belly to the lower centre and sew its outer 18 stitches to the base stitch backs, without gathering. Place the beak just above it and embroider the eyes in contrasting thread where visible against the black base. Black eyes on the white upper belly are another option. The photographed orange feet and shaped head outline are not included in this version.

Use removable pins only while arranging. Remove every pin before use. Baste first, lay the whole piece flat, and then sew using short, evenly tensioned stitches. Secure tails through several stitch backs in different directions, trim and inspect both sides. Keep all joins and embroidery ends flush.

Placement, care and sample record



Base: centre outward, six rounds

Add ears / patches after base is complete

Sew flat; embroidery on top; no filling

Construction diagram below is schematic, not a measured chart. The circular base is worked from the centre outward. Features are added afterwards. There are no genuine process photographs in this input.

The raised muzzle or belly may prevent a cup from sitting level. Check the actual cup footprint with an empty cup on a protected level surface: all of its foot must rest on an even area with no rocking. If it overlaps raised details or tips, use the piece as a decorative mat only, or sample a larger base with features outside the cup footprint. Embroidered eyes reduce bulk but do not certify stability.

Follow the actual yarn and thread care labels. Clean a separate sample, reshape flat, dry fully and remeasure before washing a whole set. Do not steam unknown fibre or colour combinations. No tested heat rating, absorbency or wash performance is established. Do not use as a hot-pan trivet.

In a pet household, store yarn accessories out of reach and remove unravelled pieces. The animal theme does not make this a pet toy.

Record yarn and dye lot: _____ Hook: _____

Base diameter and flat usable width: _____

Swatch stitches/rows per inch: _____

Empty-cup check and feature placement: _____

Care sample result and final revisions: _____