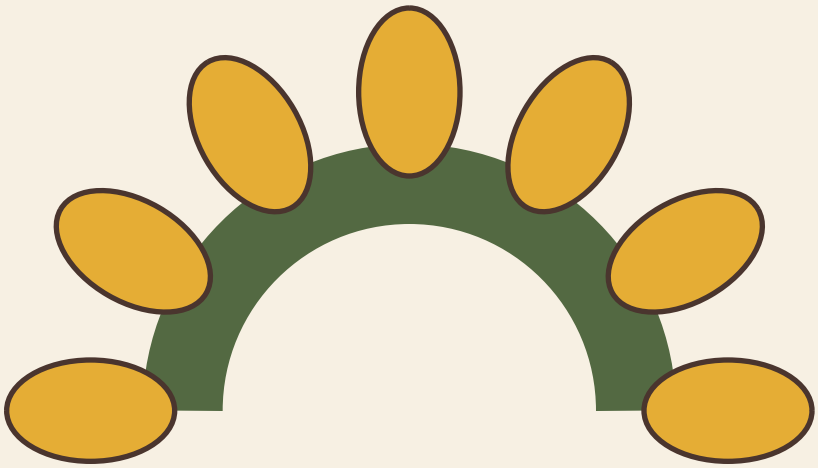
Sunflower Cat Bonnet



Open bonnet arch with seven paired petals

Free crochet PDF | US terms | Version 1.0

Untested display guide for a plush cat or form. Construction sketch is schematic.

Materials and sizing

Version 1.0. Untested display pattern in US crochet terms. Use a plush cat or inert display form for every measurement. The supplied images show earlier constructions. The instructions here make an independently drafted display version.

Swatch single crochet with the chosen yarn. Divide the stitch count by swatch width to obtain stitches per cm, and the row count by swatch height to obtain rows per cm. Record yarn and hook. Measure the finished sample on the form before making multiples. Yardage depends on size and yarn. Weigh the first finished example before purchasing for a set.

US terms. 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. For dec, draw up a loop in each of the next two stitches, yarn over and pull through all three loops. Turning and lifting chains add no stitch. Work into both top loops unless specified. Keep a marker in the first stitch of a round.

Use green and golden worsted cotton or a similar smooth yarn. Start with a 4 mm hook for the bonnet and sample a 3.5 mm hook for the petal panels. Use a blunt needle, markers, pins and scissors.

Crochet the bonnet base

Measure the form from one lower cheek, over the crown, to the opposite cheek along the intended front edge. Multiply that arch length by sc stitches per cm, then round to an even number. Measure depth from the forehead to the back of the plush head. Multiply by rows per cm and round up. Start with a 24-stitch by 12-row sample and adjust to your measurements. The front stays open below the chin.

Ch 25. Row 1: sc in second ch and across (24). Rows 2–12: ch 1, turn, 24 sc. Leave a long sewing tail after the last row. The foundation edge frames the face. Fold the rectangle in half by bringing the two short sides together. Align the left 12 stitches of Row 12 with the right 12 stitches in reverse order. Whipstitch those 12 pairs to close the back seam. Leave the Row 1 edge and both short sides free. Turn so the seam sits inside.

Place over the inert form. Check the 24-stitch foundation makes the intended front arch and the short edges sit evenly. Add or remove rows for depth or change the even foundation count and resample. Use the actual arch count for trim spacing.

Make and attach seven petals

Make 14 golden petal panels for seven paired petals. Use the smaller hook if it produces fabric you can sew without puckering. For each panel, ch 4.

Row 1: sc from second ch across (3).

Row 2: ch 1, turn, inc, sc, inc (5).

Row 3: ch 1, turn, inc, 3 sc, inc (7).

Rows 4–6: ch 1, turn, 7 sc.

Row 7: ch 1, turn, dec, 3 sc, dec (5).

Row 8: ch 1, turn, dec, sc, dec (3).

Row 9: ch 1, turn, dec, sc (2).

Row 10: ch 1, turn, dec (1). Fasten off. Align two panels with the foundations together and sew around all edges with even tension. Repeat for seven unfilled petals. Leave a tail at each foundation for sewing.

Along the 24-stitch hood arch, mark the centre of each of seven contiguous sections of 3, 4, 3, 4, 3, 4 and 3 stitches. Centre one petal foundation in each section and sew through three foundation stitches. On a resized arch, distribute remaining anchors as evenly and symmetrically as possible. Each petal needs three anchor positions or a small overlap. Try the arch on the form and add a shallow tack between neighbouring petal sides where needed.

Finish the display sample

Weave in all tails and remove the fitting pins. Set the piece on the display form and check the seams, balance and trim. If the trim drags the base sideways, use lighter yarn or reduce trim depth in a new sample. Record the actual finished dimensions and any changes. Keep the finished piece and loose yarn out of pets’ reach. Follow the yarn label on a separate wash sample before cleaning the finished item.