Striped T-Shirt Yarn Cat Basket



Finished basket from Crochet: The Complete Step-by-Step Guide, printed p. 175.

Free PDF | Version 1.0 | US crochet terms
Untested joined-round version. The book photo shows the original spiral basket.

Materials, sizing and stitch key

Version 1.0. Untested floor basket in US crochet terms. Use low-stretch super bulky T-shirt yarn in navy (A), cream (B) and red (C). Start with a 10 mm hook and adjust to suit the fabric. Bring a marker, a large blunt needle and scissors. A flat removable pad is optional. Sample one strand first. Choose a firmer tape or a smaller hook if the wall sample folds easily.

Crochet the first six base rounds as a swatch. Let the circle relax flat and measure two diameters. Record the average, your hook and how far one round adds to the radius. The finished dimensions and yarn usage depend on tape width, stretch and tension. Weigh a prototype to plan yarn quantities.

Measure a favourite resting pad or your cat’s usual resting footprint without moving the cat. Choose an inside diameter that lets the cat settle without crowding the walls. Allow a little extra diameter for wall thickness and measure the inside after turning the wall. The 84-stitch example is a stitch schedule. Add or remove complete increase rounds for the size you need.

US terms. ch = chain, sc = single crochet, sl st = slip stitch, inc = 2 sc in one stitch, BLO = back loop only. To sc, insert the hook, yarn over and draw up a loop, then yarn over and draw through both loops. Use an adjustable ring or ch 2 and work into the second chain. Secure the starting end well. Join each round to the first worked stitch with a sl st. The lift ch 1 and joining sl st add no stitches. Mark the first worked stitch and skip the join when counting. When changing colours, finish the joining sl st with the new colour. Cut old strands and secure them inside rather than leaving floats.

Crochet the round base

Use A. R1: Work 6 sc into the starting ring and join (6). Pull the centre closed. In R2 onward, ch 1 before working and join after the last sc.

R2: Inc in each stitch (12).
R3: [1 sc, inc] six times (18).
R4: [2 sc, inc] six times (24).
R5: [3 sc, inc] six times (30).
R6: [4 sc, inc] six times (36).
R7: [5 sc, inc] six times (42).
R8: [6 sc, inc] six times (48).
R9: [7 sc, inc] six times (54).
R10: [8 sc, inc] six times (60).
R11: [9 sc, inc] six times (66).
R12: [10 sc, inc] six times (72).
R13: [11 sc, inc] six times (78).
R14: [12 sc, inc] six times (84).
Stop once the measured base suits the target. To extend past R14, add one sc between increases each round. For round n, each repeat is [n minus 2 sc, inc] and the final count is 6 × n. Measure after each round. A rough starting estimate for additional rounds is the remaining diameter divided by twice the measured radial height of a round. Use the actual diameter to decide when to stop. If the base cups or ripples, recount and check tension before adding the wall.

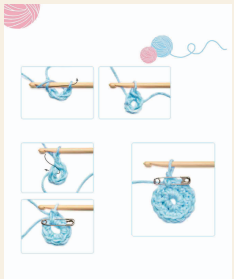


Top view of the flat base

Measure across the centre. Check a second axis.



Finished stitch inset (printed p. 175). This draft uses a solid base. Use the inset to compare the round stitch direction.



Book's general flat-circle technique (printed p. 56). Follow the written counts in this guide.

Turn the striped wall

The following counts assume R14 ended at 84 stitches. If resized, use your actual final base count for every complete wall round. Keep the base flat as you work.

W1: With A, ch 1 and sc BLO around. Join (84). The free front loops mark the bend between base and wall.

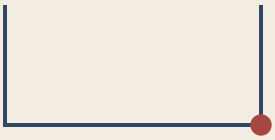
W2: With A, ch 1 and sc through both loops around. Join, changing to B (84).

W3: With B, ch 1 and sc around. Join, changing to A (84).

W4: With A, ch 1 and sc around. Join, changing to B (84).

W5: With B, ch 1 and sc around. Join, changing to A (84).

W6: With A, ch 1 and sc around. Join (84). Rest the work flat and measure the actual wall height.

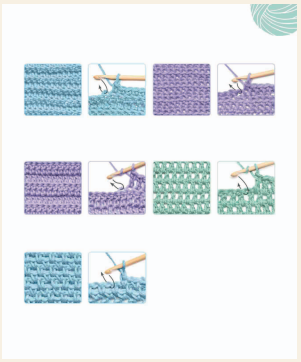


Cross-section of the basket

Back-loop round marks the turn at the base edge.



Finished wall close-up (printed p. 175). The two pale stripes sit below the red rim.



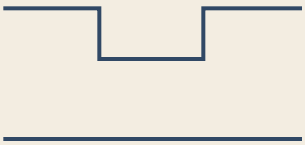
Book’s general loop placement panel (printed p. 77). The top left example shows single crochet in the back loop.

Finish the rim

Choose a low even rim or a lower entry section. For an even rim, W7 and W8 are complete rounds of sc in A (84 each). To keep the entire wall lower, stop after W6.

For a lower entry, end A after W6. Mark 18 consecutive stitches along the chosen front. Join A at the first stitch immediately after that section in the working direction. Ch 1, sc around the other 66 stitches, and stop before the first marked stitch. Ch 1, turn, sc back over those 66 stitches and fasten off. The marked entry stays two rows lower. On a resized basket, use the actual wall count minus the desired entry count. Centre the opening and check its width against the resting pad.

For either rim, attach C at the back. Work a relaxed sl st in each upper-edge stitch. For the lower entry, work into the two row ends on each shoulder and all 18 lower edge stitches, as well as the 66 upper edge stitches. The even edge has 84 pickups. The lowered edge has about 88 with the shoulder pickups. Adjust a corner by one stitch if needed to keep it smooth. Join with a sl st, fasten off and weave in ends through several stitch backs.



Front view of optional lower entry

Work the two extra rows around the sides and back.

Check the finished basket

Check that the empty basket sits flat on the floor and the rim holds its shape. Check for loops, loose yarn and gaps in the base. Remove loose pins and markers. Add a thin, flat pad only if it fits inside without bending or crowding the wall. Set the basket in a quiet spot and let your cat approach it on their own. Check the fabric after use and take the basket out of use if it unravels.

Follow the actual yarn and pad care labels. Wash and dry a separate yarn sample before washing the basket. Record the inside diameter, rim height, yarn weight used, hook and any changes. Stability, wash behaviour and the final dimensions still need physical sampling.