Two-Colour Crochet Cat Cave



Finished original Purrfect Cat House · supplied PDF reference

Free PDF | US crochet terms | Prototype draft

Materials, gauge and size

Use a smooth, firm, bulky fabric cord that holds its shape. Allow about 220 m mustard for the base and wall and 160 m teal for the roof. These are purchase estimates. Start with a 10 mm hook. Gather markers, a blunt needle and tape. Aim for approximately 5 sc and 6–7 rows per 10 cm in dense fabric. The base should be about 34 cm across and the cave about 40–47 cm tall. Choose a floor size your cat can turn around in before starting the wall.

Stitch key

US terms. Sc = single crochet, ch = chain, sl st = slip stitch, inc = 2 sc into one stitch, dec = single crochet two stitches together, BLO = back loop only. To dec, draw up a loop in each of the next two stitches, yarn over and pull through all three loops. The ch 1 turn never counts. Work base, wall and roof in continuous rounds unless given a join or turn.

Base and low sill

In mustard, round 1: 6 sc in a ring. Round 2: inc around (12). For each round r from 3 to 9, repeat [sc in the next r minus 2 stitches, inc] six times. Counts are 18, 24, 30, 36, 42, 48 and 54. Round 10: 54 sc BLO. Rounds 11–12: 54 sc through both loops. Place the 16-stitch doorway span centred on the front, and mark its boundaries.

Open doorway and bridge

Work across the other 38 stitches from one doorway edge around the back to the other edge. Leave the 16 doorway stitches unworked. This is row 1. Ch 1 and turn. Rows 2–12: 38 sc. Hold the cave at working height and measure the clear doorway. Aim for about 24 cm across and 17–20 cm from the sill to the underside of the bridge. Add even wall rows if more height is needed. At the end of the final wall row, ch 16 over the doorway. Sl st to that row’s first sc at the opposite edge. Adjust your hook or chain tension if the bridge pulls the sides toward each other.

Roof and opening edge

Change to teal at the bridge join. Ch 1, then sc in the same stitch and each of the remaining 37 stitches, and sc in each of the 16 bridge chains (54). Mark the first sc. Work one even round. For each roof decrease round, repeat [sc in the next k stitches, dec] six times, using k of 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0 in that order. Counts are 48, 42, 36, 30, 24, 18, 12 and 6. Work one even round after reaching 48, 36 and 24. Thread the yarn through the final six stitches and close. Join mustard at a bottom doorway corner and work a relaxed sc edging around the opening, beginning with one sc per exposed stitch or row end. Adjust placement if the edge curls or pulls. Join and bury ends.

Fit, stability and scaling

Place the cave on a flat floor and test it empty. Press lightly on the roof and doorway edge, then let go. Check that the opening stays clear and the roof holds its shape. If it sags or tips, set it aside and remake the shell with firmer cord or tighter stitches. Let the cat approach and leave on its own. Follow the yarn label and repeat the stability check after cleaning. To enlarge, add one base increase round for 60 stitches. Use a doorway span of 18, 42 sc around the back and an 18-chain bridge. Start the roof decrease sequence at k = 8 to reach 54, then follow the rest of the roof. Check the dimensions and stability on a sample before use.

Original construction references

These source photos or diagrams show the reference design. Follow the written counts for this draft.



Compare the transition above the doorway. *(Original PDF p. 3)*



Compare the clearance at the original doorway. *(Original PDF p. 3)*



View the tapered original roof. *(Original PDF p. 3)*

Cats Protection’s guide to resting and hiding places