



Donkey

Kristi Tullus

Size

35 cm (14") from head to toe, 43 cm (17") including ears, when crocheted with worsted weight merino wool and a 3,00 mm hook.

Skills required

Crocheting in spiral, slip stitch, single crochet stitch, increasing and decreasing.

Difficulty

3. Intermediate – includes some less common crochet techniques and color changes.

Contact Info

Pattern includes unlimited support from me over email or Skype. Crochet photo and video tutorials and helpful tips are available on my website.

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Tip! You can use the same pattern to make larger or smaller toys by using finer or bulkier yarn. Make sure to pick a crochet hook at least a size smaller than suggested on the yarn label and crochet tightly enough to achieve a tight gauge that will not allow the stuffing to show through the fabric. You may also need to adjust the size of the safety eyes and joints.

Materials & Tools

- Yarn. I used BBB Filati *Full*, a worsted weight merino wool, 90 m=50g (98yd=50g) / 8 wpi / 4: medium. You will need about 75g of gray, 25g of dark brown and 10g of white yarn.
- 3,00 - 3,50 mm crochet hook (US size 3/D - 4/E) or according to the yarn.
- Polyester fiberfill, wool, wadding for stuffing.
- 12 mm (1/2") safety eyes or buttons, beads, felt etc.
- Two 20 mm (3/4") and two 30 mm (1 1/5") doll joints or safety eyes or buttons and thread.
- Embroidery floss.
- Yarn needle, scissors, stitch marker.

Choosing joints

Tip! You can use plastic doll joints, cotter pin joints, buttons and thread or even just thread to attach the arms and legs. My favorite are plastic doll joints - they are easy to install, durable and washable. Buttons and thread will work great as well, if you can't get your hands on joints.

Plastic doll joints



1. Plastic doll joints come in three pieces - disk with a stem, washer and a fastener.



2. Disk with a stem is placed inside a limb, pushing the stem through the fabric.



3. And then locked to place inside the body.

Button and thread joints

Tip! Make sure you use a very strong thread to attach the limbs – it will have to endure quite a bit of tension and can be a bit difficult to mend, should it break. I have found cotton embroidery floss, nylon sewing thread (doubled or tripled) or fishing line work really well.



1. Cut a length of yarn and draw it through the holes in the button.



2. Place the button inside a limb, drawing the yarn tails through the fabric.



3. Place the other button inside the body, draw the yarn tails through the holes and knot them together.

Abbreviations

- **st(s)** = stitch(es).
- **mr, sc n** = crochet *n* (number) single crochet stitches in to the adjustable loop (see page 13).
- **ch** = chain stitch.
- **sl st** = slip stitch (single crochet stitch in UK and Australia).
- **sc** = single crochet stitch (double crochet stitch in UK and Australia).
- **bpsc** = back post single crochet stitch (see page 12).
- **sc (or sl st, ch, hdc etc.) n** = crochet *n* single crochet stitches (or sl st, ch, hdc etc.), one in each stitch.
- **inc** = increase – crochet two single crochet stitches in the same stitch.
- **dec** = decrease – crochet two stitches together using the invisible decrease method (see page 14-15).
- **(sc 4, inc) x n** = repeat the pattern between parentheses *n* times.
- **(36)** = number of stitches in a round after finishing round.

Notes

- Work in a continuous spiral, do not join rounds or turn your work, unless instructed otherwise in the pattern.
- Work all stitches in both loops, unless instructed otherwise in the pattern.
- Make sure to crochet tightly enough to achieve a tight gauge that will not allow the stuffing to show through the fabric.
- Use a stitch marker or a piece of yarn to mark the end or the beginning of a round. Move the marker up after completing each round.

Head

With white yarn:

1: mr, sc 6	(6)
2: inc x 6	(12)
3: (sc, inc) x 6	(18)
4: (inc, sc 2) x 6	(24)
5: (sc 7, inc) x 3	(27)
6: sc in each st	(27)
7: sc 3, inc, (sc 8, inc) x 2, sc 5	(30)
8: sc in each st	(30)
9: (sc 9, inc) x 3	(33)

With gray yarn:

10: sc 4, inc, (sc 10, inc) x 2, sc 6	(36)
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On round 11 place a stitch marker in the 21st stitch to mark the center of the face.

11: sc 2, inc, (sc 5, inc) x 5, sc 3	(42)
12: (sc 6, inc) x 6	(48)
13: sc 18, inc, sc 8, inc, sc 20	(50)
14: sc 21, inc, sc 5, inc, sc 22	(52)
15: (sc 25, inc) x 2	(54)
16: sc 23, inc, sc 4, inc, sc 25	(56)

Attach safety eyes between rows 11 and 12, leaving 14 stitches (count 13 holes) between them (see page 7).

17-23: sc in each st	(56)
24: (sc 12, dec) x 4	(52)
25: sc 5, dec, (sc 11, dec) x 3, sc 6	(48)
26: (sc 10, dec) x 4	(44)

Start stuffing the head. Keep adding a bit of fiberfill after every few rounds, stuffing the head firmly.

27: sc 4, dec, (sc 9, dec) x 3, sc 5	(40)
28: (sc 8, dec) x 4	(36)
29: sc, dec, (sc 4, dec) x 5, sc 3	(30)
30: (sc 3, dec) x 6	(24)
31: (dec, sc 2) x 6	(18)
32: (sc, dec) x 6	(12)
33: dec x 6	(6)

Finish stuffing the head. Cut the yarn, leaving a long yarn tail, and fasten off. Pick up all the remaining stitches and close the opening (see page 7).

Ears (make 2)

With gray yarn:

1: mr, sc 6	(6)
2: (inc, sc) x 3	(9)
3: (sc 2, inc) x 3	(12)
4: sc, inc, (sc 3, inc) x 2, sc 2	(15)
5: (sc 4, inc) x 3	(18)
6: sc 2, inc, (sc 5, inc) x 2, sc 3	(21)
7: (sc 6, inc) x 3	(24)
8: (sc 11, inc) x 2	(26)
9-16: sc in each st	(26)
17: (dec, sc 11) x 2	(24)
18: sc in each st	(24)

S/ st in next stitch. Cut the yarn, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing, and fasten off. Do not stuff the ears.

Arms (make 2)

With dark brown yarn:

1: mr, sc 7	(7)
2: inc x 7	(14)
3: (sc, inc) x 7	(21)
4: (inc, sc 2) x 7	(28)
5: bpsc in each st	(28)
6: sc 7, dec, (sc 4, dec) x 2, sc 7	(25)
7: sc 9, dec, sc 3, dec, sc 9	(23)
8: sc 6, dec, (sc 3, dec) x 2, sc 5	(20)

Stuff the hooves firmly. Keep adding a bit of fiberfill after every few rounds, stuffing the arms firmly.

With gray yarn:

9: sc 3, dec, sc 2, dec, sc 3, (dec, sc 2) x 2	(16)
10: sc 8, dec, sc 6	(15)
11: sc in each st	(15)
12: sc 8, dec, sc 5	(14)
13: sc in each st	(14)
14: sc 8, dec, sc 4	(13)
15-16: sc in each st	(13)
17: sc 8, dec, sc 3	(12)
18-31: sc in each st	(12)

...

...

On the right arm only, sc in next 6 stitches. Count the last stitch as the end of the round from now on.

Attach the joint between rows 30 and 31, placing it so the stem is facing straight towards the body (see page 9).

32: sc 2, dec x 5 (7)

Finish stuffing the arms. Cut the yarn, leaving a long yarn tail, and fasten off. Pick up all the remaining stitches and close the opening (see page 7).

Legs (make 2)

With dark brown yarn:

1: mr, sc 7 (7)
 2: inc x 7 (14)
 3: (sc, inc) x 7 (21)
 4: (inc, sc 2) x 7 (28)
 5: (sc 3, inc) x 7 (35)
 6: bpsc in each st (35)
 7: sc 10, dec, (sc 4, dec) x 2, sc 11 (32)
 8: sc 3, dec, sc 6, dec, sc 5, dec, sc 6, dec, sc 4 (28)
 9: sc 8, dec, (sc 3, dec) x 2, sc 8 (25)
 10: sc 5, dec, sc 11, dec, sc 5 (23)

Stuff the hooves firmly. Keep adding a bit of fiberfill after every few rounds, stuffing the legs firmly.

With gray yarn:

11: (sc 3, dec) x 4, sc 3 (19)
 12: sc 9, dec, sc 8 (18)
 13: dec, sc 16 (17)
 14: sc 8, dec, sc 7 (16)
 15: sc in each st (16)
 16: sc 8, dec, sc 6 (15)
 17-18: sc in each st (15)
 19: sc 8, dec, sc 5 (14)
 20-32: sc in each st (14)

On the right leg only, sc in next 7 stitches. Count the last stitch as the end of the round from now on.

Attach the joint between rows 31 and 32, placing it so the stem is facing towards the body (see page 9).

...

...

33: sc 4, dec, sc 3, dec, sc 3 (12)
 34: sc 2, dec x 5 (7)

Finish stuffing the legs. Cut the yarn, leaving a long yarn tail, and fasten off. Pick up all the remaining stitches and close the opening (see page 7).

Body

With gray yarn:

1: mr, sc 6 (6)
 2: inc x 6 (12)
 3: (sc, inc) x 6 (18)
 4: (inc, sc 2) x 6 (24)
 5: (sc 3, inc) x 6 (30)
 6: sc, inc, (sc 4, inc) x 5, sc 3 (36)
 7: sc 3, inc, (sc 8, inc) x 3, sc 5 (40)
 8: (sc 9, inc) x 4 (44)
 9-16: sc in each st (44)

Turn the body so the end of the round is at the center of the back. Attach the legs to the sides of the body, between rounds 9 and 10 (see page 10).

17: (sc 9, dec) x 4 (40)
 18: sc 3, dec, (sc 8, dec) x 3, sc 5 (36)
 19: (sc 7, dec) x 4 (32)
 20: sc in each st (32)
 21: sc 16, dec, sc 14 (31)

Start stuffing the body. Keep adding a bit of fiberfill after every few rounds, stuffing the body firmly.

22: dec, sc 29 (30)
 23: sc 12, dec, sc 4, dec, sc 10 (28)
 24: sc 7, dec, sc 12, dec, sc 5 (26)
 25: (dec, sc 11) x 2 (24)
 26: sc in each st (24)
 27: sc 9, dec, sc 4, dec, sc 7 (22)
 28: sc in each st (22)
 29: sc 5, dec, sc 9, dec, sc 4 (20)
 30-33: sc in each st (20)
 34: sc 5, leave rest of the sts unworked (20)

S/ st in next stitch. Cut the yarn, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing, and fasten off.

Attach the arms to the sides of the body, between rounds 29 and 30 (see page 10). Finish stuffing.

Tail

With gray yarn:

1: mr, sc 5 (5)

2-4: sc in each st (5)

Start stuffing the tail. Keep adding a bit of fiberfill after every few rounds, stuffing the tail lightly.

5: sc 2, inc, sc 2 (6)

6-7: sc in each st (6)

8: sc 3, inc, sc 2 (7)

9-10: sc in each st (7)

11: sc 4, inc, sc 2 (8)

12-13: sc in each st (8)

Sl st in next stitch. Cut the yarn, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing, and fasten off. Finish stuffing the tail.

Head

a) Attach safety eyes after finishing round 17.



1. Place the eyes to either side of the stitch marker, between rows 11 and 12, leaving 14 stitches (count 13 holes) between them.



2. Make sure you are satisfied with the placement of the eyes before pushing the washer into place.

b) Finish the head and close the opening.



1. Cut the yarn, leaving a long tail, and fasten off. Thread the yarn tail onto a yarn needle.



2. Pick up all the remaining stitches onto the yarn, inserting the needle from the center and under the front loop only and draw the yarn through.



3. Grab the yarn tail and pull until the hole is tightly closed.



4. Insert the needle through the center and bring the yarn to the bottom of the head. Fasten and hide the yarn tail.

c) Use yarn to shape the head.



1. Insert the needle from the bottom of the head, between rounds 16 and 18, and bring it up right next to the eye.



2. Go about half way around the eye and insert the needle right next to the eye. Bring it to the bottom of the head.

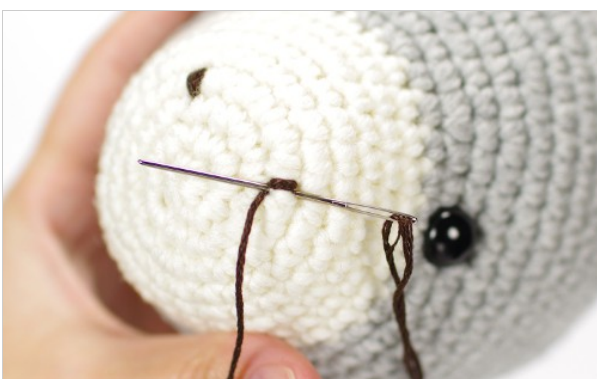


3. Grab the yarn tails and tug gently, pulling the eye in just a bit.



4. Knot the yarn tails together. Do the same with the other eye.

d) Embroider the nostrils.



1. Embroider the nostrils, making a few stitches over round 4 with dark brown embroidery floss.



2. Leave about 7 - 8 stitches between the two nostrils.

Arms & Legs

b) Place the disk with a stem or a button inside the arms and legs.



1. Place the disk inside the limb so the stem is facing straight towards the body.



2. Finish the arms and legs and close the opening (see page 7).

Assembling the donkey

a) Sew the ears to the head.



1. Place the ears just behind round 18 of the head, leaving 10 - 11 stitches between them.



2. Flatten the ears and sew them to the head in a V-shape.



2. Start sewing the ear to the head.

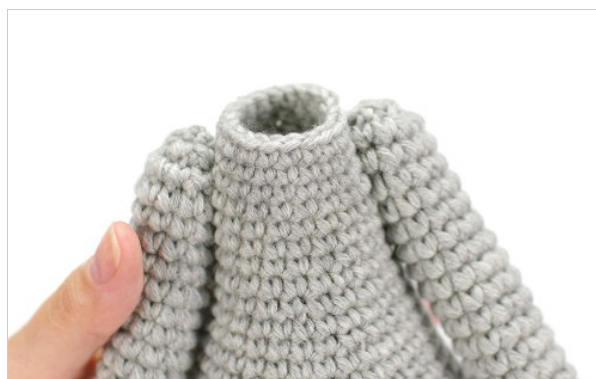


3. When you reach the center, fold the ear in half and sew the second half to the head, leaving about one stitch length of space between the two sides at the front.

b) Finish the arms and legs. Start making the body and attach the limbs as you go.



1. Turn the body so the end of the round is at the center of your donkey's back. Attach the legs to the sides of the body between rounds 9 and 10.

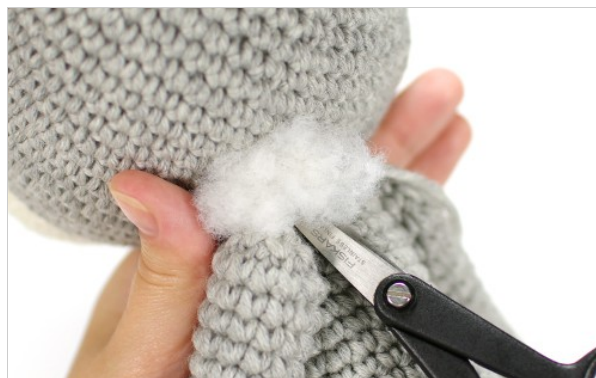


2. Finish the body. Attach the arms to the sides of the body between rounds 29 and 30.

d) Sew the head to the body.

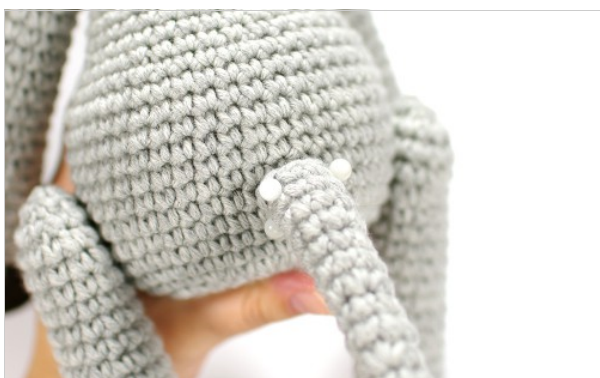


1. Sew the head to the body, placing it so the front edge is just behind round 14 of the head.

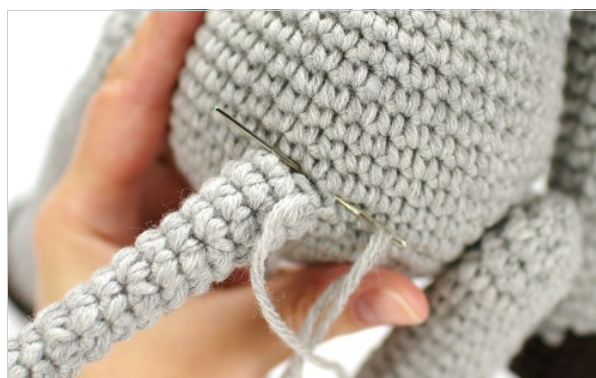


2. Add a bit more stuffing before closing the seam.

e) Sew the tail to the body.



1. Flatten the tail a bit and place it over round 9 of the body.



2. Sew the tail to the body.

Mane and tail

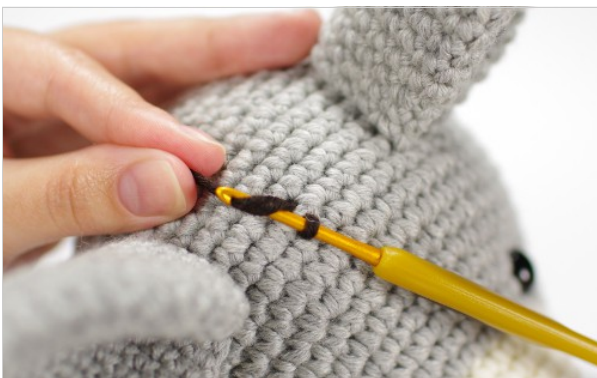
a) Attach pieces of yarn to the head and back to form the mane and to the tip of the tail.



1. Cut pieces of yarn about 2.5 times longer than you want the mane to be.



2. Start attaching the mane at round 18 and make it about three stitches wide. Insert the hook under a stitch. Fold a piece of yarn in half, grab the center and draw up a loop.



3. Use your hook to draw both yarn tails through the loop.



4. Grab the yarn tails and draw the loop tight. If you need to, trim the yarn tails.



5. Keep attaching the mane to the head, going straight around and down the back of the head and about six rows down the back.



6. Attach longer yarn pieces to the tip of the tail the same way.

Crochet Stitches

Back post single crochet stitch

Instead of crocheting single crochet stitches around the loops on top of a stitch, crochet them around the post (vertical bar), inserting the hook from the back and going over the stitch.



1. Insert your hook through the stitch from back to front, on the right of the post.



2. Continue across the post and insert your hook from front to back to the left of the post.



3. Yarn over and draw up a loop.



4. Yarn over and draw through both loops.

Amigurumi Essentials

Magic Ring

A magic ring is a way to begin crocheting in round by crocheting the first round in to an adjustable loop and then pulling the loop tight. Alternatively you can chain 2 and then crochet the first round into the second chain from hook.



1. Make a loop an inch from the yarn end. Grab the join with your thumb and forefinger.



2. Insert the hook through the loop from front to back, yarn over and draw up a loop.



3. Yarn over and draw through the loop.



4. Pull the yarn tight. This does not count as the first single crochet stitch.



5. Start the first sc. Insert the hook through the starting loop from front to back.



6. Draw up a loop. Yarn over and draw through both loops.



7. Continue crocheting over the loop and the yarn tail until you have the required number of sc-s for the first round, usually six.



8. Grab hold of the yarn tail and pull until the center is tightly closed.

Changing yarn

A quick and easy, but clean way to change yarns when working in single crochet stitch.



1. Stop before the last step of the last single crochet stitch with the "old" yarn.



2. Tie the "new" yarn around the "old" yarn and push the knot close to the piece. Cut the "old" yarn and tie the yarn tails together.



4. Pick up the "new" yarn and draw through both loops. Continue crocheting with the "new" yarn.



5. There will be a jolt where the yarn is changed and the stripes will not line up.

Invisible single crochet decrease

Pick up the front loops of both stitches and crochet one single crochet stitch into the loops. Alternatively you can replace it with regular single crochet decrease.



1. Insert the hook under the front loop of the first single crochet stitch. Do not yarn over.



2. Bend the tip of the crochet hook down ...



3. ... and insert the hook under the front loop of the second stitch and pick it up onto the hook.



4. Yarn over and draw through the first two loops. Yarn over and draw through all loops.

Finishing an open piece

This is a way to finish an open piece that will later be sewn to another closed or open piece. If you need to leave a yarn tail for sewing, stop after step 2.



1. Make a slip stitch in the next stitch. Cut the yarn and draw the yarn tail through the loop.



2. Insert the hook through the next stitch from front to back and draw the yarn tail through.



3. Insert the hook through the next stitch from back to front and draw the yarn tail through.

Stuffing the pieces

Stuffing is what gives your finished amigurumi the shape, so take your time. Loosen the stuffing between your hands and add a little bit at a time. Keep adding until your piece is firm and holds shape.

If you start getting lumps, pull out all the stuffing, loosen it and start over. If you can see the stuffing through the fabric, you have overstuffing. Then it is best to start over and stuff more lightly.

When using a dark colored or very bright yarn, it is best to stuff more lightly or use colored stuffing to keep it from showing through the fabric.

Sewing an open piece to a closed piece with whip stitch



1. Bring the needle up through the fabric under a stitch of the open piece. Go down through both loops of the stitch and into the same hole.



2. Bring the needle back up directly under the next stitch.



3. Draw the yarn tight after every stitch. Make sure your stitches are parallel to one another.

Sewing an open piece to a closed piece with mattress stitch

The same method can be used to join two open pieces.



1. Insert the needle in a hole right under the stitch and bring it up under the next stitch. Draw the yarn through.



2. Insert the needle under a stitch (the vertical bar) and draw the yarn through.



3. Insert the needle where you brought the yarn up last time and bring it up under the next stitch. Draw the yarn through.



4. Make 2-3 stitches without pulling the yarn tight. This way it is easier to see what you are doing.



5. Grab the yarn and pull it tight. Repeat around the open piece, tightening the yarn after every 2-3 stitches.

Fastening with a knot and hiding the yarn tail

This tutorial will show how to knot the yarn tail and hide it inside a piece. This method can be used when the yarn tail and the main piece are the same color.



1. Bring the yarn up through the fabric after you have finished sewing.



2. Insert the needle under one loop of a stitch right next to the hole.



3. Pull until you have a small loop.



4. Make a double knot. Do not push the first knot close to the fabric.



5. Cut off the loop end.



6. Insert the needle into the same hole, going up and through the piece.



7. Pull lightly until the knot disappears into the fabric.



8. Pull lightly on the yarn tail and cut it off close to the fabric.



9. Yarn tail will completely disappear into the fabric