

Meimei the Baby Elephant Crochet Pattern



© Dedri Uys 2013. All Rights Reserved.

Edited by Venetia Smith

You may make as many of these little crochet elephants as you like, both for personal use and for small-scale sale. **All I ask is that you credit me as the designer** as and when you make anything using this pattern (even if you alter it).

You may in no way reproduce or copy the actual pattern!



I would like to thank the following ladies for testing the pattern for me:

Dawn Turner ♥ Birna Þórðardóttir ♥ Lori Corby-Brown ♥ Amy Williams ♥ Caroline Tart

Lisa Robson ♥ Megan Munday ♥ Venetia Smith ♥ Beth Spaulding ♥ Pam Perkins

Size

She is 11 cm front to back (not including her trunk) and 9 cm high (4.3" x 3.5").

Meimei has movable limbs, so she can stand and sit with ease.

Difficulty

This pattern is suitable for **Advanced Beginners**.

Short rows are used for shaping; however, don't be daunted, the pattern contains tons of photos and you can also have a look at [this tutorial](#) I did about short rows.

The pattern includes an optional rug that you can sew onto her back. The rug is tiny, but uses more complex stitches. I thought it would be the perfect chance for you to get rid of those crochet cobwebs.

[Read more>>](#)

Materials

- 4 mm Crochet Hook (US 6/G UK 8) - you can use a smaller hook if you prefer. It's not going to make her all wonky, just smaller.
- Double knit yarn in any colour of your choosing (approximately 43 m/ 48 yards)
- A few meters of contrasting colour for the ears, feet and rug (approximately 11 m/13 yards)
- Yarn needle
- Stuffing
- 2 buttons/safety eyes

Abbreviations

US Terminology used.

CC	Contrasting Colour
Ch	Chain
Dc	Double crochet
Dc inc	Double crochet increase—work 2 dc's in the same stitch
Hdc	Half-double crochet
MC	Main Colour
Sc	Single crochet
Sc inc	Single crochet increase – work 2 sc's in the same stitch
St/St's	Stitch/Stitches
Sl st	Slip stitch
Sc2tog	Single crochet 2 together (sc decrease)
Cs	Crab stitch (reverse single crochet) - video tutorial
Wst	Waistcoat stitch - video tutorial
*	Repeat all instructions between asterisks the amount of times specified.

For example: *Sc inc, 3 x sc* x 2 will mean sc inc, sc in the next 3 st's, sc inc, sc in the next 3 st's.

Please note: you will only use the crab stitch and the waistcoat stitch for the optional rug, so don't be too stressed about them right now.

Meimei

Ears

(Make 2)

1. MC: Ch 2. 5 x sc into the 2nd ch from the hook. Ch 1 and turn. (5)
2. CC: Sc inc in each st. Ch 1 and turn. (10)
3. MC: *Sc inc, sc* x 5. Ch 1 and turn. (15)
4. CC: *Sc inc, 2 x sc* x 5. Turn. (20)
5. Skip 2 st's. 4 x sc in the third st. Skip 1 stitch and sl st into the next st. Bind off and work away your tails of yarn.

Changing Colours

There are plenty of ways to change colours. My favourite method is to change colours on the last yarn over of the last st on the row before the colour change.

So, for instance, for the last sc of Row 1: still using main colour (MC), insert hook into stitch and pull up a loop. Change to Contrasting Colour (CC). Yarn over and pull through both loops on hook. Ch 1 and turn as normal. Work the next row in CC and repeat the procedure for the last st of the round.

I tend to carry the colour I am not using instead of joining it for every second row. All this means is that you crochet over the yarn until you get to the end of the row. The yarn will then run "underneath" the stitches and be hidden from view. [Dropsdesign](#) has one of many YouTube tutorials that shows you how to carry the yarn.

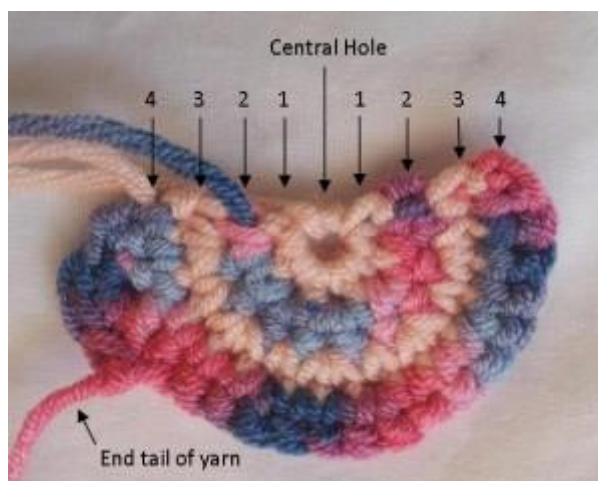
Attaching the Ears

This photo shows you the end of each row. You will be working into these rows to attach the ear to the head. If you get stuck during the attachment of the ear, please refer back to this diagram.

Please bear in mind that this diagram shows the right side of the ear.

If you are **right-handed**, you will need to make sure that your end tail of yarn is to the right when you start attaching the ears, not to the left as in this photo.

If you are **left-handed**, your **end tail of yarn** should be to the **left**, as in the photo below. This is the only thing you need to change if you are left-handed. Follow the rest of the instructions as written. It will work out. Trust me.



Legs (Make 4)

Please note: the legs are worked in a spiral, so make the first stitch of each round in the first stitch of the previous round.

1. With MC: Ch 8.
 2. Sc in the first st of the foundation chain (so the stitch **farthest away from your hook**). You should now have a ring. Make 7 more sc's, working into the remaining foundation chain stitches. Don't turn. Just continue around, making the first stitch of each round in the first stitch of the previous round. (8)
 3. 8 x sc. (8)
 4. *sc inc, 3 x sc* x 2. (10)
 - 5-6. 10 x sc. (10)
 7. *sc inc, 4 x sc* x 2. (12)
 - 8-9. 12 x sc. (12)
- Sl st in the next st. Ch 1 and bind off.

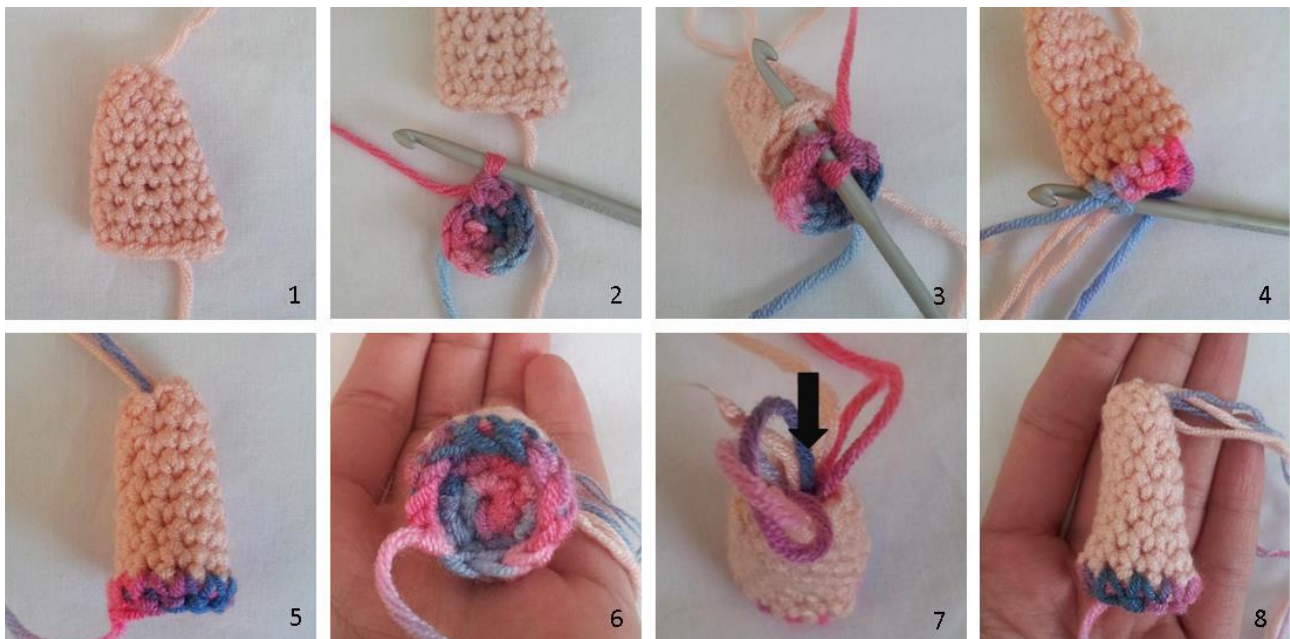
Feet (Make 4)

1. With CC: Into a magic ring: Ch 1. 6 x sc. Don't turn. Just continue around, making the first stitch of the next round in the first st of this round. (6)
2. Sc inc in each of the 6 st's of Round 1. (12)

Place the foot over the opening at the bottom of the leg with the right side facing you. Insert your hook into the next st of the foot AND from the inside to the outside into any stitch in the last round of the leg (*Photo 3*). Make a sc through both layers. Continue making 11 more sc's through both layers (*Photo 4*). Sl st to the top of the first st. Ch 1 and bind off.

Work away your end tail of yarn. Here's the lazy-girl guide to doing it: using a yarn needle, sew around the last stitch 2 times and then pull the yarn into the leg.

Use all your tails of yarn to stuff your legs with (*Photo 7*) and then add enough stuffing to fill the leg 3/4 of the way. I just jab the stuffing in there with the back of a bigger crochet hook. Don't fill the leg all the way as you will need to be able to flatten the top of the leg during attachment.



Elephant Head

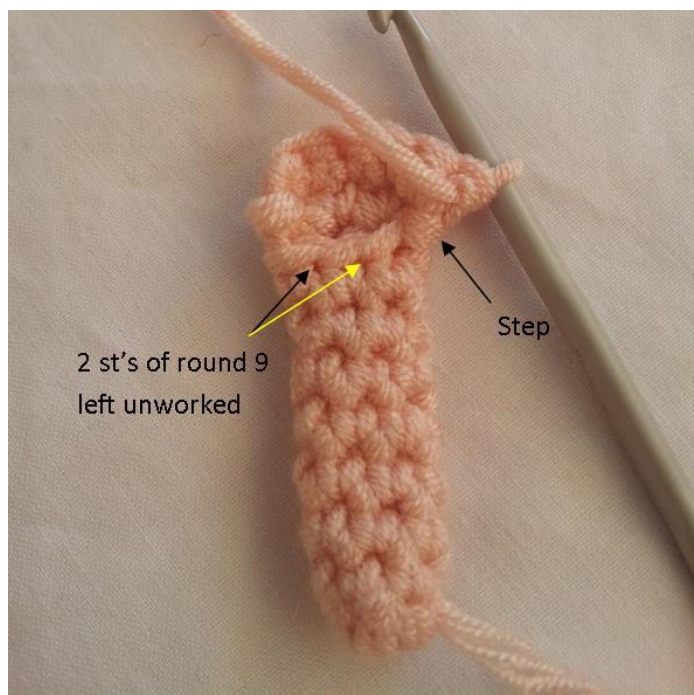
(Make 1)

Note: When working the short rows you will notice a “**step**” where the previous short row ended. I refer to these as a visual reminder that you are still on the right track. I also advise you to use a piece of **scrap yarn** as a **running st marker** to mark the beginning of each round.

Please see [this tutorial](#) if you are at all confused about short rows or running stitch markers. For a more specific look at **running stitch markers** and working in a spiral, see [this tutorial](#).

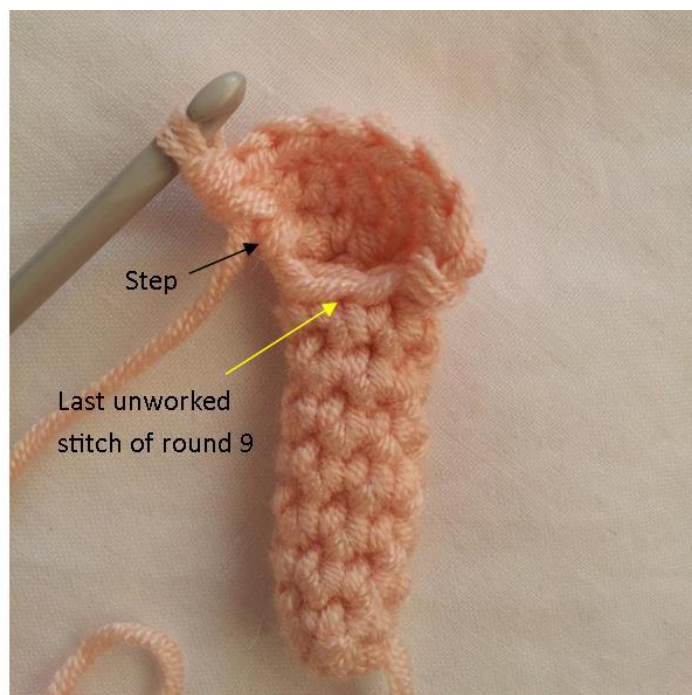
The sl st's at the end of the **short rows** are not included in the st counts in parentheses.

1. Into a magic ring: ch 1, 6 x sc. Continue around, making the first st of each round in the first stitch of the previous round. Use a piece of scrap yarn as a running stitch marker to mark the beginning of each round. (6)
- 2-8. 6 x sc. (6)
9. 5 x sc. Sl st in the next st and **TURN**. (5)
10. **Short Row:** Skip the sl st. Sc inc in the next 2 st's. Sl st in the next st and **TURN**. (4)
11. **Short Row:** Skip the sl st. **Sc inc** in the next st. 2 x sc, sc inc. This will bring you to the “step” at the beginning of Short Row 10 (see photo below). Sl st in the next st of Round 9 and **TURN**. (6)
12. **Short Row:** Skip the sl st. **Sc inc** in the next st. 4 x sc, sc inc. This will bring you to the “step” at the beginning of Short Row 11 (see photo below). Sl st in the next st of Round 9 (so the last remaining st of Round 9) and **TURN**. (8)



Short Row 11 up to the “Step”.

Notice that there are 2 st's of round 9 left unworked. Sl st into the next st of round 9 (yellow arrow) and turn.



Short Row 12 up to the “Step”.

There is now only one stitch left unworked in round 9. Sl st into this stitch and turn.

13. Place a piece of scrap yarn over your work to mark the beginning of this round (*see photo below*).
Skip the sl st. *Sc inc, sc* x 4. **DO NOT TURN.** (12)



Beginning of Short Row 13

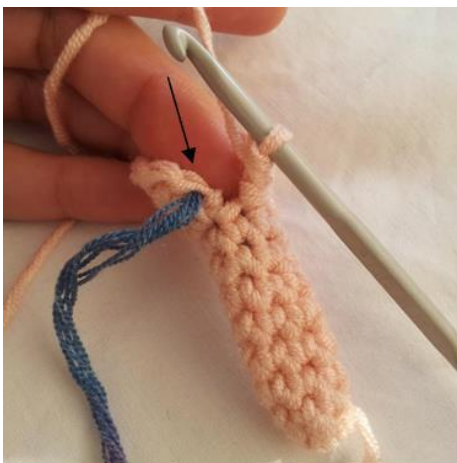
Place a piece of scrap yarn over your work before making the first st of Short Row 13.



Short Row 13 Complete

Notice that the piece of scrap yarn is trapped underneath the first st of this row.

14. Make the first st of Round 14 in the first st of Round 13, which you marked with a st marker.
Sc inc, sc x 6. *See photos below.* **DO NOT TURN.** (18)



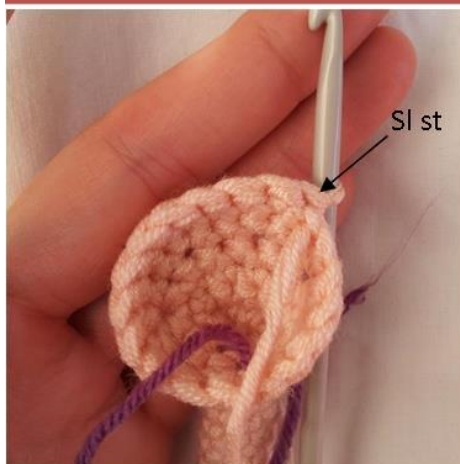
Beginning of Round 14 - Continuing around, make the first st of round 14 in the first st of Round 13 (marked with the piece of scrap yarn).



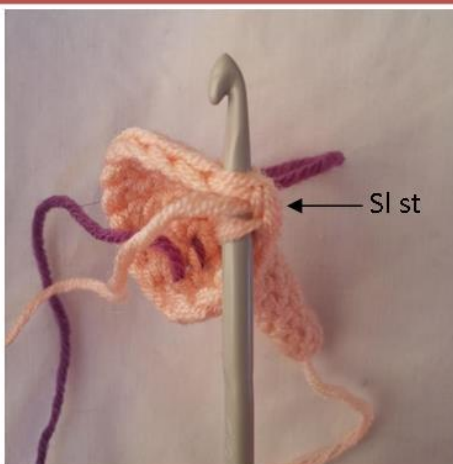
This picture shows the sc inc completed.

15. **Short Row:** 11 x sc, sl st in the next st and **TURN** (see photo below). (11)
16. **Short Row:** Skip the sl st. Sc in the next st, 2 x **sc inc**, sc in the next st, sl st in the next st. **TURN** (6)

Short Row 16



This is the end of Short Row 15 after turning.

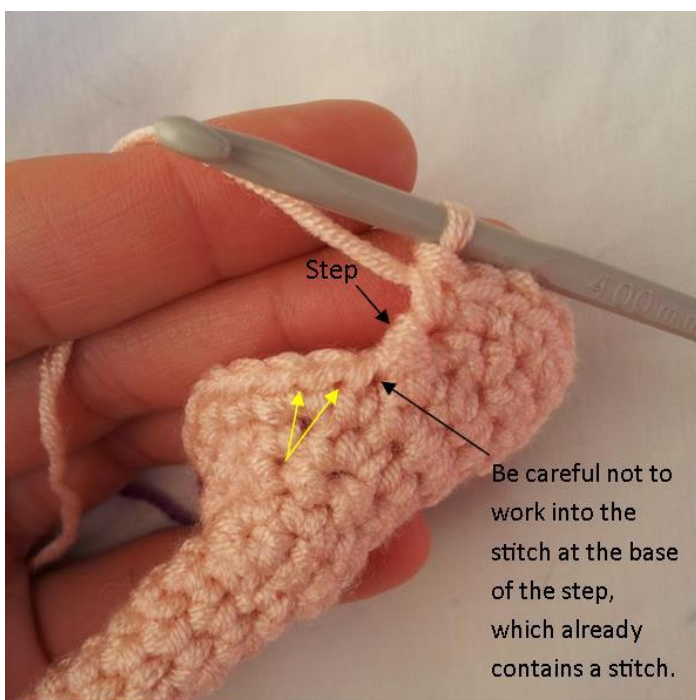


At the beginning of Short Row 16 you will skip the slip stitch.



Short Row 16 completed. You will now TURN again.

17. **Short row:** Skip the sl st. Sc, 4 x sc inc, sc. This brings you to the “step” at the beginning of Short Row 16. Sc in the next st of Round 14. Remember to skip the stitch at the base of the “step”, which already contains a stitch (see photo). Sl st in the next st and **TURN**. (11)
18. **Short Row:** Skip the sl st. Sc, 2 x sc inc, 5 x sc, 2 x sc inc, sc. This brings you to the “step” at the beginning of Short Row 17. Sc in the next st of Short Row 15. Sl st in the next st and **TURN**. (16)



Short Row 17 up to the “Step”

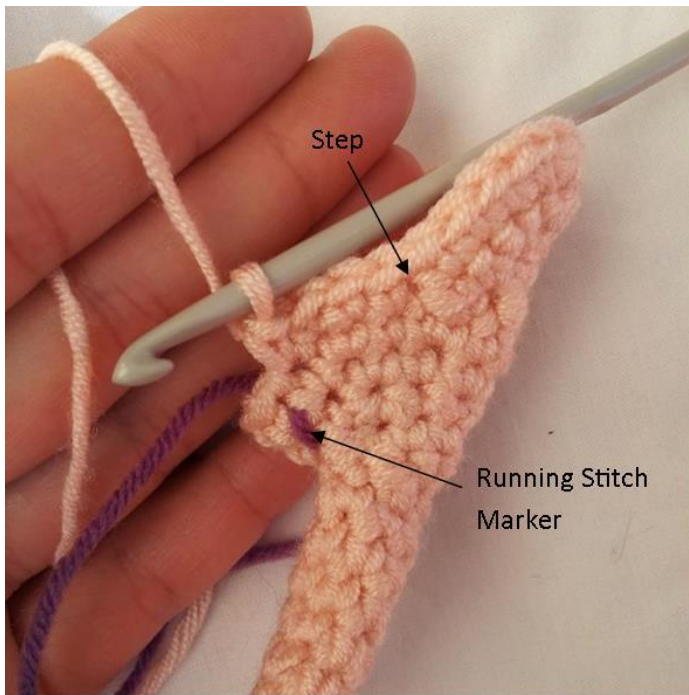
Notice that the stitch at the base of the step already contains a sl st. Sc in the next st of Round 14 and sl st in the next. **TURN**



Short Row 18 Completed.

Now you will need to TURN for the last time.

19. **Short Row:** Skip the sl st. 3 x sc, 2 x sc inc, 6 x sc, 2 x sc inc, 3 x sc. This will bring you to the “step” at the beginning of Short Row 18. 4 x sc in Round 14. Do not turn. (24)
20. Sc x 4. This should bring you to the “step” at the beginning of Round 19. 20 x sc. Skip 1. Sc, sc2tog. (26)



End of Short Row 19
Notice the 4 sc's after the “Step”.



Row 20 after the first 4 sc's.
Notice the “Step” at the beginning of Short Row 19.

21. Sc, sc 2tog, 2 x sc. Sc through the first ear x 6 (**see Note 1 on the next page**). Sc in the next 6 st's of the head only. Sc through the second ear x 6 (**see Note 2 on the page after note 1**). Sc, sc2tog. (24)
22. 9 x sc, sc2tog, 4 x sc, sc2tog, 7 x sc. (22)
23. 22 x sc. (22)
24. 22 x sc. (22)

If you are going to use safety eyes, you should place them now before working the last round of the head. Remember to place your eyes far apart, so that they fall on the sides of her head when it's stuffed. If you're not sure, stuff the head a bit before attaching the eyes and see if you like the look.

25. 11 x sc2tog. (11)

Don't bind off. Stuff the head and continue making the body.

Please Note: *If you are at all concerned about using safety eyes, try embroidering some eyes with black yarn instead. I always apply some superglue to the back of my safety eyes for extra reassurance. And if these eyes are going anywhere, it's into the head, not out of it!*



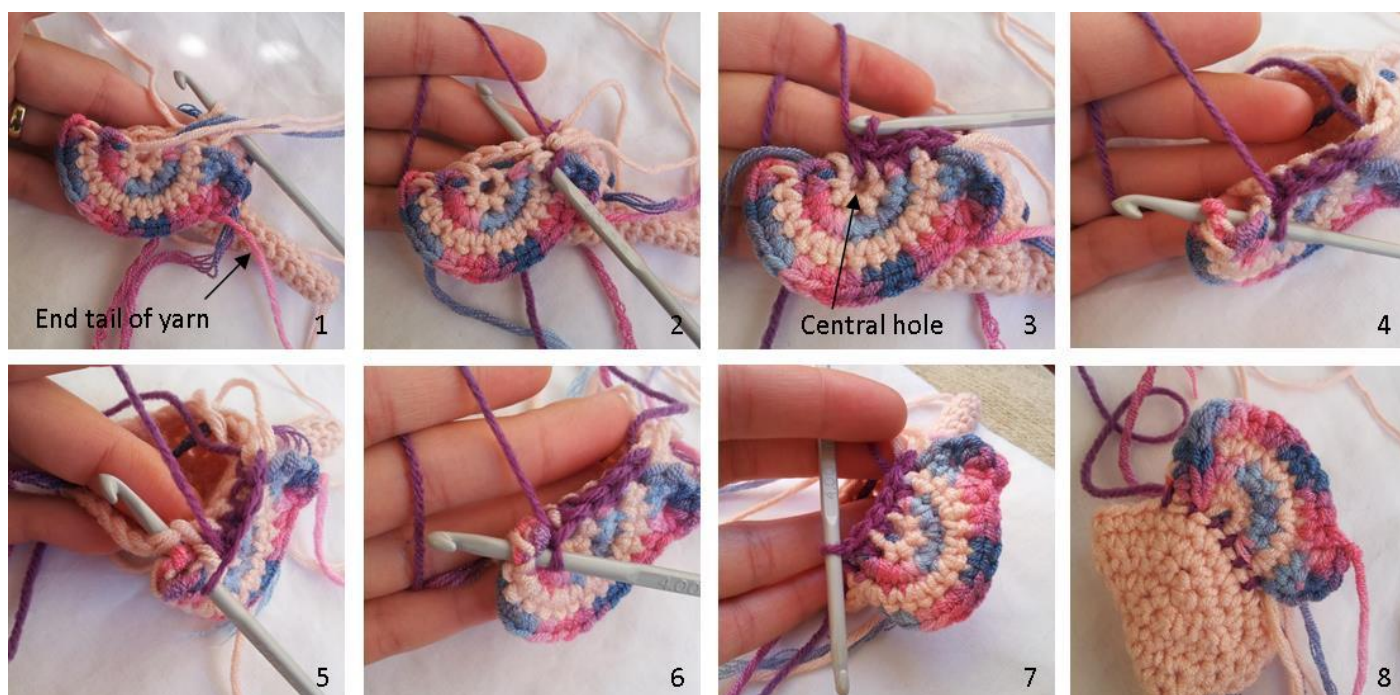
Note 1 – To Attach the First Ear:

Please Note: I have used contrasting yarn to better illustrate the attachment. I have supplied stitch counts in parentheses after each step to help you keep track of the stitches.

- Hold the ear in front of the head and upside down, with the end tail of yarn to the right as in Photo 1 below. (If you are **left-handed**, remember to flip the ear so that the end tail of yarn is to your left.) You will work the **6 sc's** attaching the ear through both the head and the ear.
- Insert your hook into the beginning of Row 3 of the ear AND the next st of the head (*Photo 2*). Make a sc. Sc through Rows 2 and 1 in the same fashion, remembering to insert your hook through both the ear AND the next st of the head. Sc through the central hole of the ear AND the next st of the head (*Photo 3*). (**4 sc's through both the ear and the head**)
- Now insert your hook from **front to back** into the the next row (this will be the other end of Row 1) and then from **back to front** into the first st of Row 4 of the ear. This will pull the ear flat (*Photo 4*). Now Insert your hook into the next st of the head and work one sc through all 3 layers (*Photo 5*). (**1 sc through all 3 layers**)
- Insert your hook through Rows 2 and 3 (see *Photo 6*) AND the next st of the head. Sc through all 3 layers (*Photo 7*). (**1 sc through all 3 layers**)

Please note that your ear should have a little fold at the top where it is attached to the head (*Photo 8*).

Photo 8 illustrates what the ear will look like from the front, obviously NOT with ugly purple stitches showing. The purple stitches are PURELY for illustration. You should end up with a neat little fold at the top of the ear.



Note 2 – To Attach the Second Ear:

- Hold the ear in front of the head and upside down, with the end tail of yarn to the right as in Photo 1 below. (If you are **left-handed**, remember to flip the ear so that your end tail of yarn is pointing to the left.) You will work the **6 sc's** attaching the ear through both the head and the ear.
- Insert your hook from **back to front** into the end of **Row 2** of the ear (to the LEFT of the central hole {to the right if you are **left-handed**} - see Photo 2) and from **front to back** into the end of **Row 3** (Photo 3). Now insert your hook into the next stitch of the head and make a sc through all 3 layers. This will fold the ear AND flip it (Photo 4). (**1 sc through all 3 layers**)
- Insert your hook into the end of **Row 1** AND through the **first st of Row 4** of the ear (which will be sandwiched between the ear and the head at this point). Insert your hook into the next st of the head and sc through all 3 layers. (**1 sc through all 3 layers**)
- Sc through the big central hole and the next st of the head. Sc through the next 3 rows of the ear AND the next 3 st's on the head (Photo 5). (**4 sc's through both the ear and the head**)

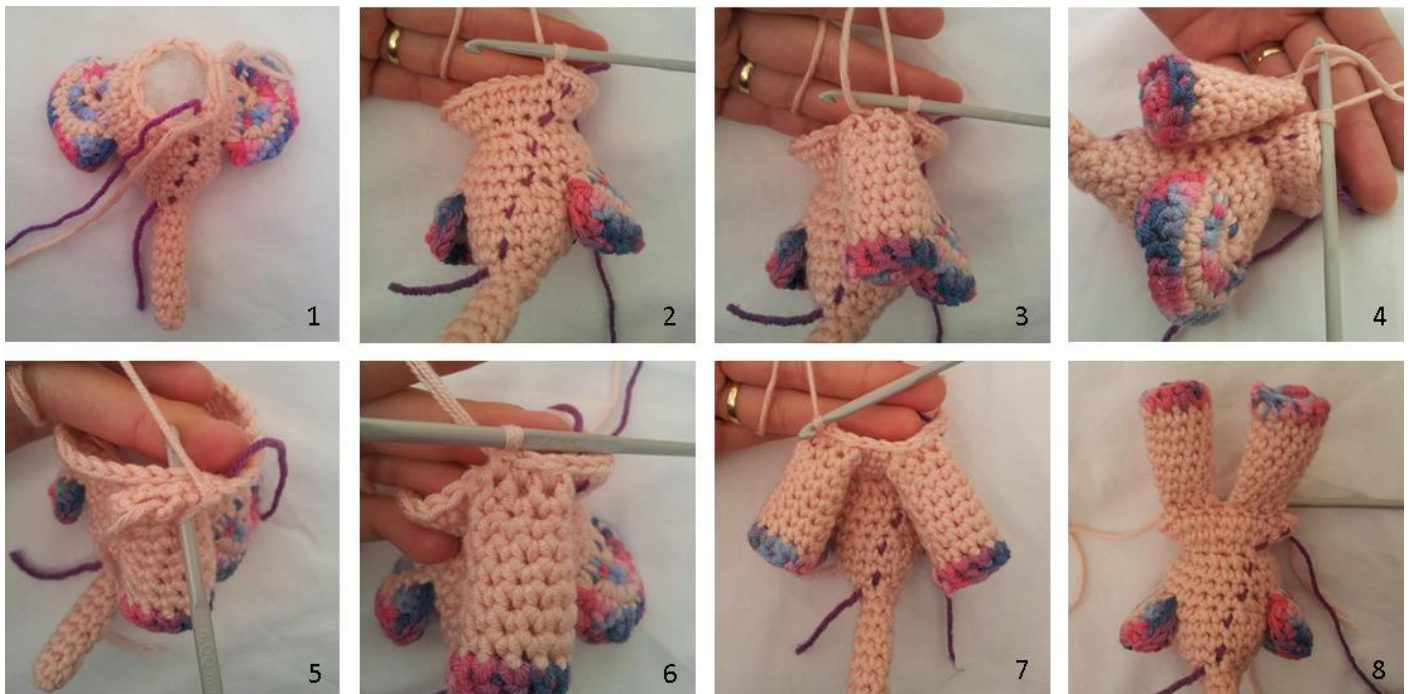


Body

Continue where you left off with the head and remember to use that running stitch marker! It should creep slightly to the right as in Photo 1 below. If it doesn't, you've done something hinky.

26. 11 x sc inc. (22)
27. *sc, sc inc* x 5. 8 x sc. *sc inc, sc* x 2. (29)
28. Sc inc, 28 x sc. (30)
29. *You will attach the front legs in this round.* Sc in the next 2 st's of the body. Place one of the legs in front of the body with the foot pointing down. Flatten the first round of the leg (*Photos 3 and 4*). Insert your hook through the first stitch of the leg (through both layers) AND the next stitch of the body (*Photo 5*). Make a sc through all 3 layers. Make 2 more sc's, working through both layers of the leg AND the next 2 st's of the body (*Photo 6*). Sc in the next 2 st's of the body only. Place the other leg in front of the body exactly as before and make 3 sc's through all 3 layers (*Photo 7*). Sc in the next 20 st's. (30)

Photo 8 illustrates that the legs should fall on either side of Meimei's trunk.



- 30-32. Sc x 30. (30)
33. *You will be attaching the back legs in this round.* Sc in the next 3 st's of the body, now attach the first back leg as before. Sc in the next 2 st's of the body only, now attach the last leg as before. Sc in the next 19 st's. (30)
34. *sc2tog, 3 x sc* x 6. (24)
35. *sc2tog, 2 x sc* x 6. Now is a good time to stuff your little elephant. (18)
36. *sc2tog, sc* x 6. (12)
37. 6 x sc2tog. (6)

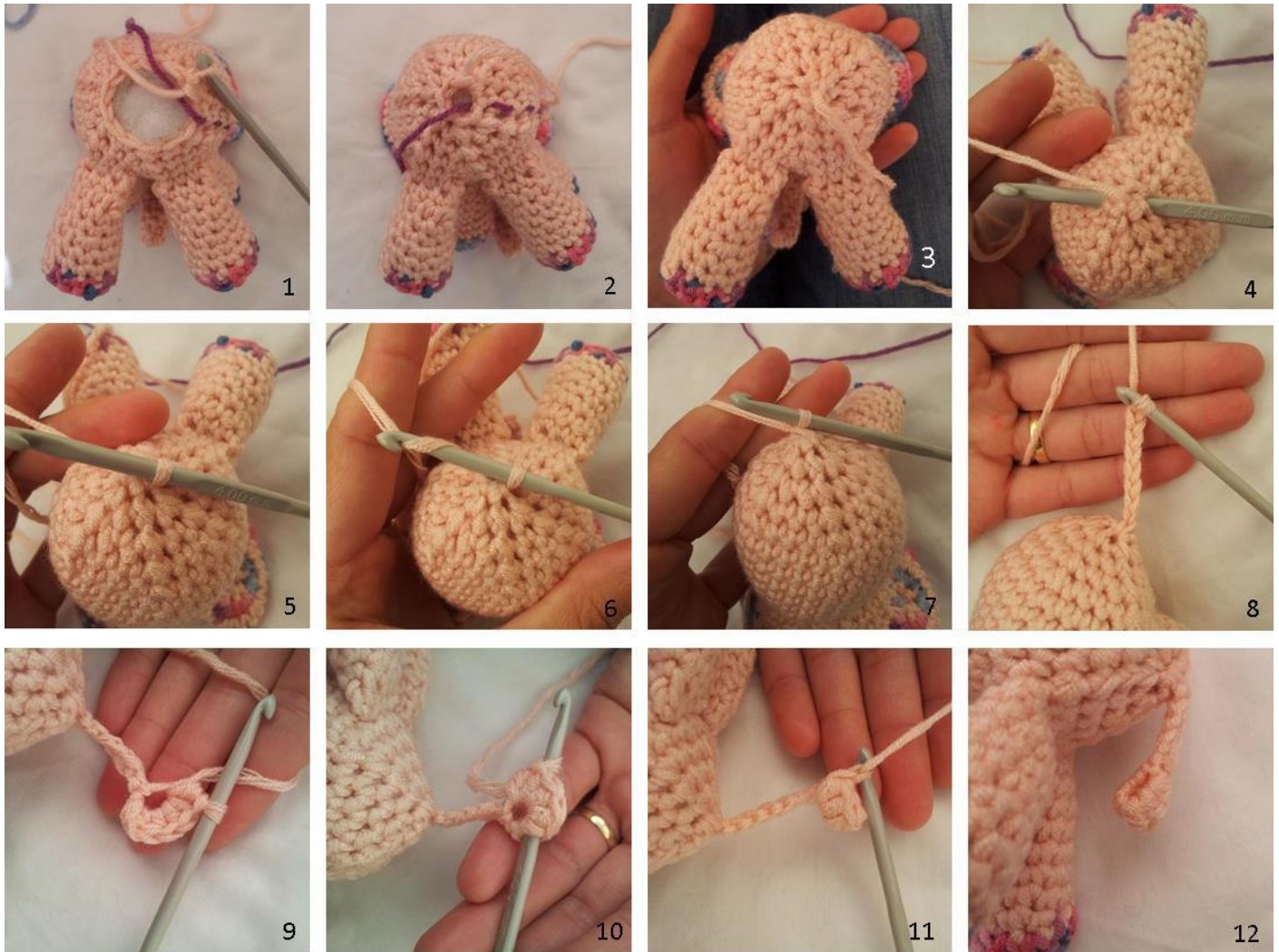


Bind off, leaving a 1m/1 yard tail of yarn. Weave the tail of yarn through the last 6 stitches and pull them tight to close the hole (*Photos 2 and 3 on the next page*).

Tail

Now insert your hook around the “hole” by poking it into the elephant on one side of the closed hole and out the other side (*Photo 4*). Yarn over with the long tail of yarn and pull up a loop (*Photo 5*). Yarn over and pull through to get your starting chain stitch (*Photos 6 and 7*).

Ch 8 (*Photo 8*). 5 x hdc in the third chain from the hook (*Photo 9*). Drop the loop and insert your hook into the first of the 5 hdc's. Grab the dropped loop and pull it through (*Photos 10 and 11*). This will give you a little popcorn stitch at the end of your tail. Ch 1 to secure the popcorn stitch. Sl st in each of the 6 ch's back up the tail. Bind off and work away your tail of yarn.



Rug

This little rug is an optional extra. To make it a bit more funky, I have decided to use 2 stitches you might not normally encounter: the waistcoat stitch and the crab stitch. I think that this tiny little rug is the perfect opportunity to practice these stitches. Think of it as a little sampler.

The Stitches

The **waistcoat stitch** has a true stockinette finish and I absolutely love the look of it. It is always worked from right to left (left to right if you are left-handed), so is perfectly suited to working in the round. When making rows, though, you have to bind off at the end of every row, which is perfect for this little rug.

My friend Rhondda did a lovely tutorial for the waistcoat stitch, which you can find [here](#). It includes written instructions and a photo tutorial, and also a link to her video tutorial.

The **crab stitch**, also called the reverse single crochet, is a lovely, sturdy stitch that looks gorgeous for the finishing round of rugs, shoes, blankets...anything that requires a pretty one-row border. It is always worked from left to right (right to left if you are left-handed) and can prove quite a challenge at first. Essentially, you are crocheting backwards. [Here is an idiot's guide](#) to reverse single crochet. And if you need a video tutorial, the link is supplied in the abbreviations at the beginning of this post.

Crochet Rug Pattern

Please Note: don't work over your tails of yarn...you are going to use them to make tassels with later on.

1. Ch 18 and bind off.
2. With a slip knot already on your hook, sc in one loop only of each of the 17 ch's across. (The 18th ch doesn't count, it forms a little knot when you bind off). *See Photo 1.* (17)
- 3-6. With a slip knot already on your hook, 17 x wst. Ch 1 and bind off. *See Photos 2 and 3.* (17)
7. With contrasting yarn and a slip knot already on your hook: starting from the last stitch of the last row, crabstitch in each stitch across. Ch 1 and bind off.
8. With contrasting yarn and a slip knot already on your hook: crabstitch in the remaining 2 loops of each of the foundation ch st's as above. Ch 1 and bind off.

Of course you can take the easy route and just make 6 rows of sc, finished off with a row of contrasting sc on either side...

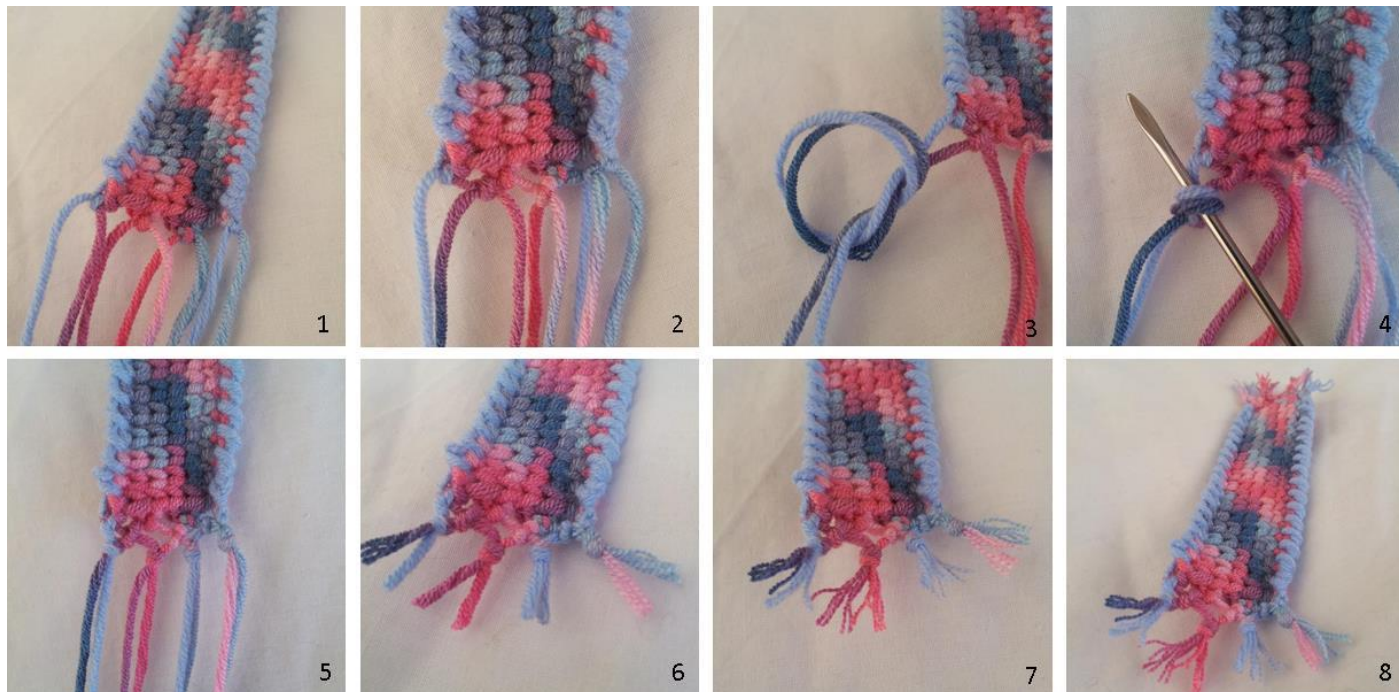


Finishing the Rug

Tie overhand knots in the fringe, knotting 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6, 7 and 8 together (*Photo 1*). Then tie knots between the knots you have just made. To do that, tie 2 and 3, 4 and 5, 6 and 7 together (*Photo 2*).

For the last row of knots, repeat the first row of knots, again tying 1 and 2 together (3 and 4, 5 and 6, 7 and 8) - see *Photos 3 and 4*. I use a big needle to push the knot down so that it abuts the other knots.

Finally cut the fringe (*Photo 6*) and separate the yarn so that it looks more fringe-y (*Photo 7*).



Sew the little rug to Meimei's back and you are all done.

More Elephant Crochet Patterns

[Eleanor the Crochet Elephant Puzzle](#)



[Grace the Crochet Elephant Comfort Blanket](#) (FREE)

