Crochet Christmas Pickle Ornament

PATTERN

A bumpy little gherkin ornament with a red bow and a lucky secret - hide it in the tree and let the Christmas morning hunt begin.



The finished Christmas pickle ornament, about 10 cm (4 in) long.

Finished size	Approx. 10 cm (4 in) long, 4 cm (1 1/2 in) wide, plus the loop	**Skill level**	Confident beginner
Time	About 1 hour	**Terms**	US crochet terms

The Christmas pickle is a beloved German-American tradition: a pickle ornament is hidden deep in the Christmas tree, and the first person to find it on Christmas morning is rewarded with good luck for the coming year - or, in many families, an extra gift. This soft crochet version is unbreakable, safe around children and pets, and hides anywhere. The body is worked in the round in single crochet, and the famous gherkin bumps are easy bobble stitches. Work in a continuous spiral, mark the first stitch of every round, and stuff in layers as you go.

Materials

- Worsted-weight (aran / #4) yarn in **bright green**, approx. 20 g - pickle body
- Small amount of worsted-weight yarn in **dark green** - stem cap and stem
- Small amounts of **red** and **white** yarn - mini Santa hat (optional)
- A tiny red ribbon bow (or a short length of red yarn to crochet one)
- Gold cord, metallic thread or thin ribbon - hanging loop
- 3.5 mm (US E-4) crochet hook
- Fiberfill stuffing
- Yarn needle, stitch markers, scissors

Abbreviations (US Terms)

MR	magic ring	**ch**	chain
sl st	slip stitch	**sc**	single crochet

inc	increase - 2 sc in one stitch	**dec**	invisible decrease
bobble	5-dc bobble stitch (counts as 1 st)	**dc**	double crochet
BLO	back loop only	**FO**	fasten off
st(s)	stitch(es)	**rnd**	round

Bobble stitch: (Yarn over, insert hook in the stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through 2 loops) 5 times in the same stitch - 6 loops on the hook - yarn over and pull through all 6 loops. Push the bobble to the front of the fabric with your fingertip.

Size & gauge: Gauge is not critical for amigurumi - work tightly so the stuffing does not show through. Approx. gauge: 10 sc x 10 rounds = 6 x 4.2 cm (2 1/4 x 1 3/4 in). With the yarn and hook listed, the pickle is about 10 cm (4 in) long.

Pickle Body (bright green)



Step 1 - starting the pickle body in the round.

The body is worked from the bottom up. The plain rounds set the smooth gherkin shape; the bump rounds (7, 9 and 11) add the texture. Alternate them exactly as written and the bumps will stagger on their own.

Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. **[6]**

Rnd 2: Inc in each st around. **[12]**

Rnd 3: (Sc in next st, inc in next st) 6 times. **[18]**

Rnd 4: (Sc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) 6 times. **[24]**

Rnds 5-6: Sc in each st around (2 rounds). **[24]**

Rnd 7: Bump round: (3 sc, bobble) 6 times. **[24]**

Rnd 8: Sc in each st around. **[24]**

Rnd 9: Bump round, offset: 2 sc, bobble, (3 sc, bobble) 5 times, sc in last st. **[24]**

Rnd 10: Sc in each st around. **[24]**

Rnd 11: Bump round: repeat Rnd 7. **[24]**

Rnd 12: Sc in each st around. **[24]**

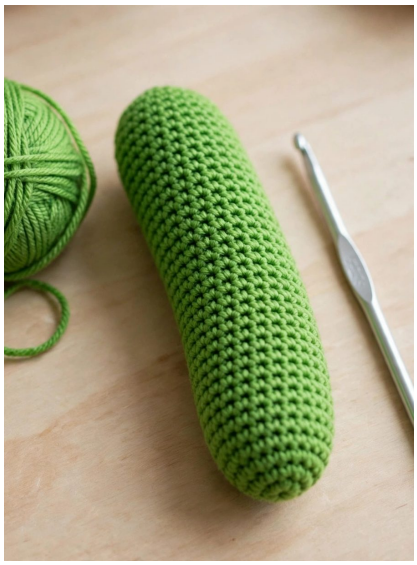
Rnd 13: (Sc in next 2 sts, dec) 6 times. **[18]**

Rnd 14: Sc in each st around. **[18]**

Rnd 15: (Sc in next st, dec) 6 times. **[12]**

Rnd 16: Dec 6 times. **[6]**

Stuff the pickle firmly before the last rounds close. Fasten off, thread the tail through the front loops of the last 6 stitches, pull to close the hole and weave in the end.



Step 2 - the shaped, smooth body before the bumps go in.



Step 3 - bobble stitches forming the gherkin bumps.

Stem Cap & Stem (dark green)



Step 4 - the closed body and the little stem cap.

Cap:

Rnd 1: 6 sc in a magic ring. **[6]**

Rnd 2: (Sc in next st, inc in next st) 3 times. **[9]**

Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

Stem:

Rnd 1: 5 sc in a magic ring. **[5]**

Rnds 2-3: Sc in each st around (2 rounds). **[5]**

Fasten off. Sew the stem upright into the centre of the cap, then sew the cap over the closed top of the pickle so it covers the closing stitches completely.

Mini Santa Hat (optional)



Step 5 - the bow and the tiny Santa hat in place.

Rnd 1: 4 sc in a magic ring (red). **[4]**

Rnd 2: (Sc in next st, inc in next st) 2 times. **[6]**

Rnd 3: Sc in each st around. **[6]**

Rnd 4: (Sc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) 2 times. **[8]**

Rnd 5: Sc in each st around. **[8]**

Rnd 6: (Sc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) 2 times. **[10]**

Rnd 7: Sc in each st around. **[10]**

Rnd 8: (Sc in next 4 sts, inc in next st) 2 times. **[12]**

Rnds 9-10: Join white. Sc in each st around (2 rounds) - the brim. **[12]**

Fasten off. For the pom, wrap white yarn around two fingers about 15 times, tie tightly in the middle, cut the loops and trim into a tiny ball; or work a single white bobble at the tip. Perch the hat over the stem at a slight angle and secure it with a few hidden stitches through the brim.

Bow, Hanging Loop & Finishing

1. Bow: tie a tiny red ribbon bow and sew it to the front of the pickle, just under the stem cap. No ribbon? Crochet one: ch 6, sc in the 2nd ch from the hook and in each ch across, FO, wrap the centre tightly with yarn and sew on.

2. Hanging loop: thread a length of gold cord through the stem cap, knot it into a loop of about 8 cm (3 in), and hide the knot under the cap.

3. Final check: give the pickle a gentle squeeze all over to even out the stuffing - it should feel firm and hold its gherkin curve.

4. Hide it: hang the pickle deep inside the tree, well away from the edge, and let the hunt begin on Christmas morning!



Step 6 - the finished pickle, hanging on the tree, ready to be found.

3 Tips for a Perfect Pickle

1. Stagger the bobbles. Offsetting each bump round by two stitches is the difference between a real gherkin texture and neat polka-dot rows. Push every bobble to the front of the fabric with your fingertip as you finish it.

2. Stuff in layers. Add a little stuffing every few rounds instead of all at the end. A pickle stuffed in layers keeps its smooth tapered shape, with no lumps and no stretched stitches.

3. Mind your tension. If you can see stuffing through your stitches, go down to a 3.0 mm hook. Tight, even stitches are what make amigurumi ornaments look professional.

Happy crocheting! Make one pickle for your own tree, or a whole jar of them in different greens as the funniest handmade gifts of the season - and may the best hunter win.