Crochet Christmas

TREE ORNAMENTS

A trio of mini ornaments for your tree: a red-and-cream striped bauble, a glittering gold star and a little green bell with a gold bead clapper. Each one takes about twenty minutes, and the whole set is done in around an hour.



The finished trio - striped bauble, gold star and green bell - on a light wooden table with pine sprigs.

Finished size	Each ornament about 2 to 2.5 in (5 to 6 cm) across, with a 3 in (8 cm) hanging loop.	**Skill level**	Easy / beginner
Time	About 20 minutes per ornament - around 1 hour for the trio	**Terms**	US crochet terms

Three small shapes, three gold loops, one evening of easy stitches. The bauble is a simple striped sphere worked in continuous rounds, the star is one flat round with five points, and the bell is a tiny cone with a flared rim. There is no sewing of fiddly parts and no embroidery. Work in continuous

rounds unless a section says otherwise, and mark the first stitch of every round.

Materials

- DK / light worsted-weight (#3) yarn in **red**, approx. 25 g - bauble stripes
- DK yarn in **cream**, approx. 20 g - bauble stripes
- DK yarn in **metallic gold**, approx. 15 g - star and hanging loops
- DK yarn in **green**, approx. 25 g - bell
- 3.5 mm (US E-4) crochet hook
- Small amount of toy stuffing
- 1 gold bead, about 8 mm, for the bell clapper
- Gold cord or narrow ribbon for the hanging loops
- Stitch markers, tapestry needle, scissors

Abbreviations (US Terms)

ch	chain	**sl st**	slip stitch
sc	single crochet	**hdc**	half double crochet
dc	double crochet	**inc**	increase - 2 sc in one stitch
dec	decrease - sc 2 sts together	**st(s)**	stitch(es)
rnd	round	**FO**	fasten off

Gauge: 20 sc and 22 rows = 4 in (10 cm) with a 3.5 mm hook. Gauge is not critical here - a slightly looser or tighter tension just makes the ornaments a touch bigger or smaller.

> **Changing colour:** finish the last stitch of the old colour with the new colour on the final yarn-over, so the new colour starts cleanly at the join. Carry the unused yarn up the inside of the bauble rather than cutting it after every stripe.

Ornament 1 - The Striped Bauble



Step 1 - starting the red bauble with a magic ring.

Worked in continuous rounds, without joining, so there is no visible seam down the side of the ball. Pull the magic ring tight enough that no stuffing can peek through the centre later.



Step 2 - the bauble grows and the cream stripes appear.

Rnd 1 (red): 6 sc in a magic ring. Pull the ring closed. **[6 sts]**

Rnd 2 (red): 2 sc in each st around. **[12 sts]**

Rnd 3 (cream): *Sc, inc* around. **[18 sts]**

Rnd 4 (cream): *2 sc, inc* around. **[24 sts]**

Rnd 5 (red): *3 sc, inc* around. **[30 sts]**

Rnd 6 (red): Sc in each st around. **[30 sts]**

Rnd 7 (cream): Sc in each st around. **[30 sts]**

Rnd 8 (cream): Sc in each st around. **[30 sts]**

Rnd 9 (red): Sc in each st around. **[30 sts]**

Rnd 10 (red): *3 sc, dec* around. Begin closing the ball. **[24 sts]**

Rnd 11 (cream): *2 sc, dec* around. Stuff the bauble firmly now. **[18 sts]**

Rnd 12 (cream): *Sc, dec* around. **[12 sts]**

Rnd 13 (red): Dec around. Fasten off; weave the tail through the last 6 sts and pull closed. **[6 sts]**

Tip: the stripes only line up if the stitch count holds at 30 stitches through Rnds 6 to 9. Count after every round.

Ornament 2 - The Gold Star



Step 3 - crocheting the gold star.

With gold yarn, make a magic ring and work **10 sc** into it, then join with a sl st. **[10 sc]**

Points (repeat 5 times around the ring): ch 5, sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, hdc in the next ch, dc in the next 2 ch, skip 1 st of the centre ring, sl st in the next st. Each point uses 2 ring stitches (1 skipped + 1 slip stitch), so 5 points use all 10 ring stitches exactly. Pull the centre ring tight, weave in the ends on the back, and press the star flat under a book for a few minutes so the points lie neatly. The finished star measures about 2 in (5 cm) across.

Ornament 3 - The Green Bell



Step 4 - crocheting the green bell with its gold bead clapper.

Worked top-down in continuous rounds. The bell is a little cone that flares at the rim in Rnd 10, which is worked in the front loops only.

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

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

Rnd 3: *Sc, inc* around. **[18 sts]**

Rnd 4: *2 sc, inc* around. **[24 sts]**

Rnd 5: Sc in each st around. **[24 sts]**

Rnd 6: Sc in each st around. **[24 sts]**

Rnd 7: Sc in each st around. **[24 sts]**

Rnd 8: *3 sc, inc* around. **[30 sts]**

Rnd 9: Sc in each st around. **[30 sts]**

Rnd 10: Front loops only: *sc, 2 sc in next st* around - this flares the rim. **[45 sts]**

Rnd 11: Sc in each st around. **[45 sts]**

Clapper: thread the gold bead onto a short length of green yarn, knot it, and pull it up inside the bell so it hangs just below the rim. Fasten off and weave in the end.

Hanging Loops & Finishing



Step 5 - threading gold cord through the finished ornaments.

Cut three lengths of gold cord, about 8 in (20 cm) each. Thread one through the top of each ornament with the tapestry needle, knot the ends together, and trim the tail. A loop of about 3 in (8 cm) hangs neatly over a branch without drooping.



Step 6 - the finished trio hanging from a pine branch.

Hang the trio a few inches apart on the same branch so they read as a set, or scatter them across the tree among your other decorations. Because they are so light, they hang happily from the thinnest twigs at the tips of the branches. Make a second or third trio in different colours, and a bare little tree suddenly looks fully dressed.

3 Tips for a Perfect Trio

1. Count the bauble rounds. The stripes only line up if the stitch count holds at 30 stitches through Rnds 6 to 9. Catching a missed increase early costs one round, not a whole bauble.

2. Stuff the bauble firmly, but not too firmly. Too little stuffing and the ball sags; too much and the stripes stretch apart and the stuffing shows through. It should feel like a firm orange, not a hard ball.

3. Keep the star flat. Metallic yarn likes to curl. Press the finished star under a heavy book overnight, or give it a very light mist of spray starch, and the five points will stay crisp on the tree.

Happy crocheting! Make the trio in the red, cream, gold and green shown here, or try a snowy all-white set, a classic red and gold palette, or soft pastel shades for a nursery tree.