Crochet Christmas Tree Skirt

PATTERN

A big, flat round tree skirt in wide red and cream stripes with one deep green accent stripe and a wide scalloped shell edge - with a slit and ties so it wraps around a tree that is already standing and decorated.



The finished tree skirt, about 48 in (122 cm) across, under a decorated Christmas tree.

Finished size	Approx. 48 in (122 cm) across; centre opening approx. 4 in (10 cm). Fits most trees 5 to 7 1/2 ft tall.	**Skill level**	Easy / beginner
Time	About 10 to 12 hours, over a weekend or a few evenings	**Terms**	US crochet terms

This skirt is one giant flat circle worked from the centre out, with the same increase repeated every round: twelve extra stitches per round, nothing to memorise. The stripes do all the decorating, the slit lets you dress a tree that is already up, and the scalloped shell border gives it a finished, heirloom look. Work in joined rounds unless a section says otherwise, and mark the first stitch of every round.

Materials

- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn in **red**, approx. 850 yd - main stripes, slit rows and ties
- Worsted-weight yarn in **cream**, approx. 800 yd - stripes and scalloped border
- Worsted-weight yarn in **deep green**, approx. 250 yd - one accent stripe
- About 1,900 yd in total - roughly ten 100 g skeins
- 6.0 mm (US J-10) crochet hook
- Stitch markers (at least 2)
- Tapestry needle, scissors, tape measure
- Blocking pins and a spray bottle (for finishing)

Abbreviations (US Terms)

ch	chain	**sl st**	slip stitch
sc	single crochet	**dc**	double crochet

inc	increase - 2 dc in one stitch	**st(s)**	stitch(es)
rnd	round	**FO**	fasten off

Gauge: 12 dc and 7 rows = 4 in (10 cm) with a 6.0 mm hook. Gauge matters here: if your circle measures much smaller, the finished skirt will be too small for a full-size tree. Check after round 10 - the circle should measure about 11 in across.

Step 1 - Centre Ring



Step 1 - the small red centre ring, worked from a chain ring.

Chain 18 and join with a slip stitch to form a ring. This opening ends up about 4 in (10 cm) across - wide enough for most tree trunks and stands. Work **Rnd 1** in red: ch 3 (counts as dc), 23 dc in the ring, join with a sl st to the top of the ch 3. **[24 dc]** Place a stitch marker in the first stitch.

Steps 2 & 3 - Increase Rounds & Stripes



Step 2 - the flat circle grows by 12 stitches every round.

The flat-circle rule: add exactly 12 stitches in every round. Each round begins with a ch 3 and is joined with a sl st. Change colour on the last yarn-over of the final stitch of a round, so the new colour starts cleanly at the join. Count your stitches after every round - the count must be 12 more than the round before.



Step 3 - the wide red, cream and green stripes.

Stripe sequence: Rnds 1-4 red, 5-8 cream, 9-12 red, 13-15 green, 16-19 cream, 20-23 red, 24-27 cream, 28-31 red, 32-35 cream, 36-40 red.

Rnd 1 (red): Ch 3 (counts as dc), 23 dc in the ring. Join with a sl st to the top of the ch 3. **[24]**

Rnd 2 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 1 st, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[36]**

Rnd 3 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[48]**

Rnd 4 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[60]**

Rnd 5 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[72]**

Rnd 6 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[84]**

Rnd 7 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[96]**

Rnd 8 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[108]**

Rnd 9 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[120]**

Rnd 10 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 9 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[132]**

Rnd 11 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 10 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[144]**

Rnd 12 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 11 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[156]**

Rnd 13 (green): Ch 3, (dc in next 12 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[168]**

Rnd 14 (green): Ch 3, (dc in next 13 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[180]**

Rnd 15 (green): Ch 3, (dc in next 14 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[192]**

Rnd 16 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 15 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[204]**

Rnd 17 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 16 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[216]**

Rnd 18 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 17 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[228]**

Rnd 19 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 18 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[240]**

Rnd 20 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 19 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[252]**

Rnd 21 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 20 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[264]**

Rnd 22 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 21 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[276]**

Rnd 23 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 22 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[288]**

Rnd 24 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 23 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[300]**

Rnd 25 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 24 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[312]**

Rnd 26 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 25 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[324]**

Rnd 27 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 26 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[336]**

Rnd 28 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 27 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[348]**

Rnd 29 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 28 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[360]**

Rnd 30 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 29 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[372]**

Rnd 31 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 30 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[384]**

Rnd 32 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 31 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[396]**

Rnd 33 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 32 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[408]**

Rnd 34 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 33 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[420]**
Rnd 35 (cream): Ch 3, (dc in next 34 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[432]**
Rnd 36 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 35 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[444]**
Rnd 37 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 36 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[456]**
Rnd 38 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 37 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[468]**
Rnd 39 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 38 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[480]**
Rnd 40 (red): Ch 3, (dc in next 39 sts, 2 dc in next st) 12 times. Join with a sl st. **[492]**

Step 4 - The Slit

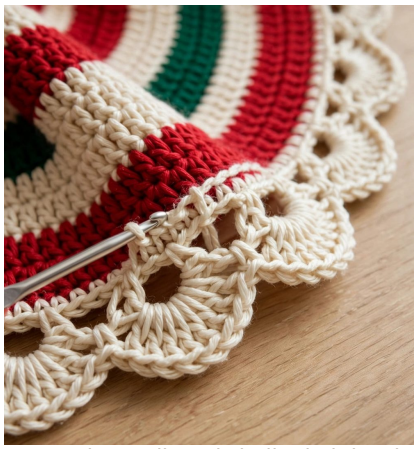


Step 4 - the slit opening, worked in turned rows.

Rows 41-42 (red, turned rows - do NOT join): Ch 3, turn, dc in each st across. **[492 dc]** Turn and repeat once more. Because these rows are not joined into a circle, a straight radial slit opens from the centre hole to the outer edge. Fasten off.

This slit is what lets you slide the skirt around a tree that is already standing and decorated.

Step 5 - Scalloped Border



Step 5 - the scalloped shell-stitch border.

Border (cream): Join cream yarn with a sl st at the outer edge. Work around the entire outer edge: *skip 2 sts, 5 dc in the next st (shell made), skip 2 sts, sl st in the next st* and repeat. The outer edge holds 492 stitches, which divides neatly into **82 shells**. Continue the same shell edging down one side of the slit, around the centre opening, and back up the other side - work one round of sc along the slit edges first so the shells have an even base. Fasten off and weave in the ends.

Step 6 - Ties & Finishing



Step 6 - the finished skirt with its red ties, around the tree trunk.

Ties (red, make 2): At the top of each slit edge, join red yarn, ch 40, then sl st back down the chain to make a sturdy cord. Fasten off.

Finishing: Weave in all ends with the tapestry needle, working them through the backs of stitches in the same colour. Block the skirt: lay it flat, pin the scallops out to their full width, mist lightly with water, and let it dry completely. Slide it under the tree, tie the cords in a bow, and scatter a few wrapped gifts on top.

3 Tips for a Perfect Tree Skirt

1. Count every round. The flat-circle rule is 12 new stitches per round, every round. If your count is off by even one stitch, the increases drift and the skirt will ripple - catch it early and the fix is one round, not a whole skirt.

2. Mark the first stitch. A stitch marker in the first stitch of each round keeps your joins invisible and your stripe changes exactly where you want them. Move it up as you go.

3. Block before the first use. A quick pin-and-mist blocking session makes the scalloped edge lie flat and the stripes sit evenly. It takes ten minutes of pinning and a few hours of drying, and it is the single biggest upgrade to the finished look.

Happy crocheting! Make it in the classic red, cream and green shown here, or try a snowy all-cream version, a woodland green and gold one, or a soft dusty-blue winter palette.