Crochet Lion Pattern

Free amigurumi pattern — golden-tan lion with a fluffy dark-brown mane, cream muzzle and belly, and a tufted tail



Finished lion, about 22 cm tall, worked in worsted-weight yarn with a 4.0 mm hook.

Materials

- Worsted-weight yarn in golden tan (about 90 g); dark brown (about 40 g); cream (about 30 g)
- 4.0 mm crochet hook; 12 mm black safety eyes (2); polyester fiberfill stuffing
- Yarn needle, stitch marker, scissors. US crochet terms throughout. Work in continuous rounds unless stated.

Abbreviations: sc = single crochet, inc = increase (2 sc in one stitch), dec = decrease (single crochet 2 together), st = stitch, Rnd = round, ch = chain.

Head

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

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

Rnd 3: (Sc, inc) x 6. [18]

Rnd 4: (2 sc, inc) x 6. [24]

Rnd 5: (3 sc, inc) x 6. [30]

Rnd 6: (4 sc, inc) x 6. [36]

Rnds 7-11: Sc in each st around (5 rounds). [36]

Rnd 12: (4 sc, dec) x 6. [30]

Rnd 13: (3 sc, dec) x 6. [24]

Rnd 14: (2 sc, dec) x 6. [18]

Rnd 15: (Sc, dec) x 6. [12]

Rnd 16: Dec x 6. Fasten off, stuff firmly before closing. [6]

Insert the safety eyes between Rnds 9 and 10, about 7 stitches apart, before stuffing firmly.

Body

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

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

Rnd 3: (Sc, inc) x 6. [18]

Rnd 4: (2 sc, inc) x 6. [24]

Rnd 5: (3 sc, inc) x 6. [30]

Rnd 6: (4 sc, inc) x 6. [36]

Rnd 7: (5 sc, inc) x 6. [42]

Rnds 8-12: Sc in each st around (5 rounds). [42]

Rnd 13: (5 sc, dec) x 6. [36]

Rnd 14: (4 sc, dec) x 6. [30]

Rnd 15: (3 sc, dec) x 6. [24]

Rnd 16: (2 sc, dec) x 6. [18]

Rnd 17: (Sc, dec) x 6. [12]

Rnd 18: Dec x 6. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing. [6]

Stuff a little at a time and shape into a plump egg form so the lion sits upright.

Ears (make 2)

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

Rnd 2: (Sc, inc) x 3. [9]

Rnds 3-4: Sc in each st around (2 rounds). [9]

Rnd 5: (Sc, dec) x 3. Flatten; do not stuff. [6]

Sew to the head so they peek out of the mane.

Muzzle (make 1, cream)

Rnd 1: Ch 7. Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 4 ch, 3 sc in last ch, sc in next 4 ch along the other side, 2 sc in last ch. [14]

Rnd 2: Inc, sc 4, inc x 3, sc 4, inc x 2. [20]

Rnd 3: Sc in each st around. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. [20]

Sew across the lower half of the face, centred between the eyes.

Belly patch (make 1, cream)

Rnd 1: Ch 7. Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 4 ch, 3 sc in last ch, sc in next 4 ch along the other side, 2 sc in last ch. [14]

Rnd 2: Inc, sc 4, inc x 3, sc 4, inc x 2. [20]

Rnd 3: Sc in each st around. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. [20]

Work the same oval as the muzzle; sew to the front of the body.

Arms (make 2)

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

Rnd 2: (Sc, inc) x 3. [9]

Rnds 3-6: Sc in each st around (4 rounds). [9]

Rnd 7: (Sc, dec) x 3. Stuff lightly, flatten; do not close. [6]

Sew to the sides of the body, slightly angled outward.

Legs (make 2)

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

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

Rnds 3-5: Sc in each st around (3 rounds). [12]

Rnd 6: (2 sc, dec) x 3. Stuff lightly, flatten; do not close. [9]

Sew underneath the body so the lion sits level.

Tail (make 1)

Ch 12 in golden tan, sl st in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. [11]

Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing. Make the tuft: wrap dark brown yarn around three fingers 12 times, tie tightly in the middle, cut the loops and trim into a round puff. Tie the tuft to the end of the tail.

Mane (dark brown)

Cut dark brown yarn into strands about 12 cm long. Fold each strand in half and attach it around the face with a lark's head knot, working two full rings around the head — one ring just behind the face edge and one ring a little further back. Once both rings are full, trim the mane into a neat round halo and fluff it out with your fingers.

Assembly & Face

Sew the head firmly to the top of the body, then attach the ears, arms, legs and tail, pinning every piece first and checking the balance from the front and the side. Embroider a small brown triangle nose on the cream muzzle and a gentle smile curving down from it; add two tiny eyebrows above the eyes if you like. Fluff the mane, weave in all ends, and set your lion upright.

Tips

- Work the mane in the back loops. Attaching the mane strands through the back loops of the head rounds keeps the front of the face smooth and lets the mane sit full and fluffy around it.
- Stuff the head firmly before closing. A well-stuffed head keeps the face round and gives the safety eyes and muzzle a smooth surface to sit on.
- Pin before you sew. Check the head, ears, arms and legs from every angle while they are pinned — once sewn, moving them means unpicking.

Happy crocheting! This pattern is free for personal use.