Mini Heart Keychain

PATTERN

A plump little red heart with a cream scalloped edge and a gold keyring - a quick handmade gift for Secret Santa, stocking fillers and craft fair tables.



The finished heart keychain, about 7 cm (2 3/4 in) wide.

Finished size	Approx. 7 cm (2 3/4 in) wide, 6 cm (2 1/4 in) tall	**Skill level**	Beginner
Time	About 45 minutes	**Terms**	US crochet terms

This mini heart is one of the quickest small crochet gifts you can make: two little lobes joined into a heart, shaped with simple decreases, stuffed, and finished with a pretty cream shell edge. Work in a continuous spiral unless a section says otherwise, mark the first stitch of every round, and stuff firmly as you go.

Materials

- Worsted-weight (aran / #4) yarn in **red**, approx. 25 g
- Small amount of worsted-weight yarn in **cream**, approx. 10 g
- 3.5 mm (US E-4) crochet hook
- Polyester toy stuffing - a small handful
- Yarn needle, stitch marker, scissors
- 25 mm gold split keyring, small gold lobster clasp, 6 mm jump ring
- Pliers (for opening and closing the jump ring)

Abbreviations (US Terms)

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

Size & gauge: Gauge is not critical for this small project - work tightly so the stuffing does not show through. Approx. gauge: 16 sc x 18 rows = 10 x 10 cm (4 x 4 in). The finished heart is about 7 cm (2 3/4 in) wide and 6 cm (2 1/4 in) tall, not counting the keyring.

Heart Lobes (make 2, red)



Step 1 - the two small red lobes.

Make the first lobe and fasten off. Make the second lobe exactly the same way, but do NOT fasten off - you will join the lobes in the next section.

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

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

Rnd 3: Sc in each st around. **[12]**

Fasten off the first lobe and set it aside. Keep the working loop on the second lobe.

Join the Lobes & Shape the Heart (red)



Step 2 - the two lobes joined into one heart.

Work the first joining stitch snugly so no gap opens between the lobes. The even rounds between the decrease rounds keep the heart plump and rounded instead of cone-shaped.

Rnd 4: Join the lobes: sc in each of the 12 sts of the first lobe, then sc in each of the 12 sts of the second lobe. **[24]**

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

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

Rnd 7: Sc in each st around. **[18]**

Rnd 8: (Sc in next st, dec) 6 times. **[12]**

Rnd 9: Sc in each st around. **[12]**

Rnd 10: Dec 6 times. **[6]**

Stuff the heart firmly before the last round: push small pinches of filling into the point first, then fill the two lobes evenly. After Rnd 10, fasten off leaving a long tail, thread it through the remaining 6 stitches, pull tight to close the hole, and weave the tail inside the heart to hide it.



Step 4 - stuffing the heart.

Cream Scalloped Edging (cream)



Step 5 - the cream shell edge around the heart.

Join the cream yarn with a slip stitch at the dip between the two lobes at the top of the heart. The edge has 32 stitches and each shell spans 4 stitches, so the shell pattern repeats exactly 8 times.

Edging Rnd 1: Sc evenly around the outside edge of the heart, working 2 sc in the dip at the top and 2 sc at the point. [32 sts around the edge] **[32]**

Edging Rnd 2: (Skip 1 st, 5 dc in next st, skip 1 st, sl st in next st) - repeat around. [8 shells] **[8]**

Slip stitch to join, fasten off and weave in the cream ends neatly on the back of the heart.

Attach the Keyring



Step 6 - the finished keychain, ready to gift.

Open the jump ring with pliers, thread it through the top centre stitch of the heart at the dip between the lobes, and close it firmly. Thread the lobster clasp onto the jump ring, then clip the clasp to the split keyring. Give the whole keychain a gentle tug to check that the ring is properly closed. Weave in any remaining yarn ends, give the heart a light steam or a gentle squeeze back into shape, and your heart keychain is ready to give away.

Tips

- **Keep your tension firm.** Small crochet gifts are handled every day, so tight stitches keep the shape neat and stop the stuffing from peeking through.
- **Stuff the point first.** Push a small pinch of filling right into the tip before you fill the lobes - a flat, empty point is the most common flaw in a crocheted heart.
- **Make them in batches.** One heart takes under an hour, so make a handful at once - a set in red, pink, cream and sage makes a lovely gift set.