



CROCHET PATTERN · US CROCHET TERMS

Soft Play Balls

Striped stuffed balls in three sizes, soft to squeeze, roll and catch

SKILL

Beginner



FINISHED SIZE

6 cm · 7 cm · 9 cm

YARN

DK (weight 3)

HOOK

3.0 mm (between US C-2 and D-3)

WELCOME

Hello, maker!

Welcome to Soft Play Balls: squishy, colourful balls in three sizes for rolling, catching and squeezing.

They are a perfect first amigurumi and a lovely way to use up DK scraps. Change colour every two rounds for bright stripes, or make them in one colour.

With love, YaraDream



● At a glance

SKILL	Beginner
TIME	1 to 3 hours each
SIZE	About small 5.6 cm / 2.2 in, medium 7.2 cm / 2.8 in, large 8.8 cm / 3.5 in across, with DK yarn and a 3.0 mm hook
YARN	DK (weight 3), about 9 g in 1 colour (amounts per colour on page 3)
HOOK	3.0 mm (between US C-2 and D-3)
PIECES	Small ball x1, Medium ball x1, Large ball x1
WORKED	In spiral rounds
TERMS	US crochet terms; abbreviations on page 4

● Inside this pattern

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Tick as you go

Every round has a box. Tick it when it is done, on paper or on a tablet.

Count your stitches

The number at the end of each round is your stitch total.

US crochet terms

Prefer UK terms? The UK-terms files are in your download.

Safety. Every size is larger than 4.45 cm (1.75 in) across, the US small-ball limit for toys for children under 3, when made with DK yarn at the stated tension. Measure your ball. No bells or beads for babies.

BEFORE YOU START

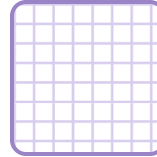
Materials & tools

Any DK cotton or acrylic. Cotton washes best.



● Gauge

About 24 sc and 26 rounds = 10 cm (4 in) in single crochet worked in the round. Gauge is not critical for a toy, but the fabric must be tight: if stuffing shows between the stitches, go down a hook size. A thicker yarn or a looser tension makes a bigger piece.



● Yarn

Stripes, any colours

DK cotton or acrylic. In

total, all colours: small 9 g / 20 m, medium 14 g / 32 m, large 21 g / 48 m

9 g to 21 g

A



Amounts come from the stitch totals of this pattern, plus about 25% for tails and tension.

● Tools & notions

- ☐ 3.0 mm (between US C-2 and D-3) crochet hook, or the size that gives a tight fabric
- ☐ Polyester fibrefill (safety tested, for toys)
- ☐ Tapestry needle
- ☐ Stitch marker
- ☐ Scissors

● Good to know

- Every size must be bigger than 4.5 cm (1.75 in) across for children under 3. Measure your finished ball.
- Do not add bells or rattle beads for babies.

STITCH GUIDE

Stitches & abbreviations

This copy uses US crochet terms. The UK name of each stitch is shown beside it.

US	UK	WHAT IT MEANS
[] n times	[] n times	repeat the stitches inside the brackets n times
ch	ch	chain
dec	dec	invisible decrease: insert the hook into the front loops of the next 2 sts, yarn over, pull through both front loops, yarn over, pull through the 2 loops on the hook
inc	inc	increase: 2 sc in the same stitch
MR	MR	magic ring (also called magic circle)
Rnd	Rnd	round
sc	dc	single crochet
st(s)	st(s)	stitch(es)
Sts	Sts	the stitch total at the end of the round or row

● Magic ring

A closed centre with no hole. Every piece in this pattern starts with one.

1. Wrap the yarn twice around two fingers, crossing it over itself.
2. Insert the hook under both strands, catch the working yarn and pull up a loop.
3. Chain 1 to secure. This chain does not count as a stitch.
4. Work the stitches of round 1 into the ring, over both strands and the tail.
5. Pull the tail firmly to close the centre, then continue with round 2.



● Working in a spiral

Amigurumi rounds are not joined, so there is no seam.

1. After the last stitch of a round, go straight on into the first stitch of the next round.
2. Put a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up as you go.
3. Count the stitches at the end of every round. The number in the pill is the total you need.

● Stripes in the round

Change colour without cutting the yarn.

1. Work the last stitch of the round before the stripe until 2 loops are left on the hook.
2. Pull the new colour through both loops. Keep the old colour inside the piece.
3. When you go back to the first colour, pick it up from inside and carry it loosely up the wall.
4. Spiral rounds make a small step where the colours meet. Keep that step at the back.



● Invisible decrease (dec)

The neatest way to decrease in amigurumi: it leaves no gap.

1. Insert the hook into the front loop only of the next stitch, then the front loop only of the stitch after it.
2. Yarn over and pull through both front loops (2 loops left on the hook).
3. Yarn over and pull through both loops. One stitch made from two.

● Stuffing

Firm, even stuffing gives a smooth, round shape.

1. Use small tufts of polyester fibrefill, not one big lump.
2. Fill the far end first and work towards the opening, shaping with your fingers.
3. Stuff firmly: the piece should hold its shape but not stretch the stitches open.

● Closing the last round

Pieces that end with 6 stitches are closed like a drawstring.

1. Fasten off, leaving a 15 cm tail.
2. Thread the tail on a tapestry needle and pass it through the front loop of each remaining stitch.
3. Pull tight to close the hole, then push the needle through the piece and out the other side.
4. Squeeze the piece, trim the tail close and let it disappear inside.



READ THIS FIRST

Pattern notes

- **Before you start**

- Rounds are worked in a continuous spiral unless the round says to join. Mark the first stitch of each round.
- The number in the pill at the end of a round is the stitch total for that round. Count before you move on.
- Work into both loops of each stitch unless the round says back loop (BLO) or front loop (FLO) only.
- Brackets [] are repeated the number of times shown after them.
- Leave a long tail (about 30 cm) when you fasten off a piece that will be sewn on.
- Each ball is one piece. The stripes do not change the stitch counts.

- **Construction at a glance**

1

Small ball

Make 1 · 20 rounds · colour A

2

Medium ball

Make 1 · 26 rounds · colour A

3

Large ball

Make 1 · 32 rounds · colour A

LET'S MAKE IT

The pattern

Choose a size, or make all three.

1

Small ball

42 stitches at the widest round.

 A · Stripes, any colours

Make 1

RND	INSTRUCTIONS	STS
☐ Rnd 1	6 sc in a magic ring.	6
☐ Rnd 2	Inc in each st around.	12
<p>Tip. Stripes: change colour every 2 rounds, in the last stitch of the round before the stripe. Carry the colours up inside, or cut and knot them inside. Use as many colours as you like.</p>		
☐ Rnd 3	[sc in next st, inc] 6 times.	18
☐ Rnd 4	[sc in next 2 sts, inc] 6 times.	24
☐ Rnd 5	[sc in next st, inc, sc in next 2 sts] 6 times.	30
☐ Rnd 6	[sc in next 4 sts, inc] 6 times.	36
☐ Rnd 7	[sc in next 2 sts, inc, sc in next 3 sts] 6 times.	42
☐ Rnds 8–14	Sc in each st around.	42
☐ Rnd 15	[sc in next 5 sts, dec] 6 times.	36
☐ Rnd 16	[sc in next 2 sts, dec, sc in next 2 sts] 6 times.	30
<p>Tip. Start stuffing now. Fill the ball firmly and evenly, a tuft at a time.</p>		
☐ Rnd 17	[sc in next 3 sts, dec] 6 times.	24
☐ Rnd 18	[sc in next st, dec, sc in next st] 6 times.	18
☐ Rnd 19	[sc in next st, dec] 6 times.	12
☐ Rnd 20	Dec around. <i>Fasten off and close the hole.</i>	6

2

Medium ball

54 stitches at the widest round.

A · Stripes, any colours

Make 1

RND	INSTRUCTIONS	STS
☐ Rnd 1	6 sc in a magic ring.	6
☐ Rnd 2	Inc in each st around.	12
Tip. Stripes: change colour every 2 rounds, in the last stitch of the round before the stripe. Carry the colours up inside, or cut and knot them inside. Use as many colours as you like.		
☐ Rnd 3	[sc in next st, inc] 6 times.	18
☐ Rnd 4	[sc in next 2 sts, inc] 6 times.	24
☐ Rnd 5	[sc in next st, inc, sc in next 2 sts] 6 times.	30
☐ Rnd 6	[sc in next 4 sts, inc] 6 times.	36
☐ Rnd 7	[sc in next 2 sts, inc, sc in next 3 sts] 6 times.	42
☐ Rnd 8	[sc in next 6 sts, inc] 6 times.	48
☐ Rnd 9	[sc in next 3 sts, inc, sc in next 4 sts] 6 times.	54
☐ Rnds 10–18	Sc in each st around.	54
☐ Rnd 19	[sc in next 7 sts, dec] 6 times.	48
☐ Rnd 20	[sc in next 3 sts, dec, sc in next 3 sts] 6 times.	42
Tip. Start stuffing now. Fill the ball firmly and evenly, a tuft at a time.		
☐ Rnd 21	[sc in next 5 sts, dec] 6 times.	36
☐ Rnd 22	[sc in next 2 sts, dec, sc in next 2 sts] 6 times.	30
☐ Rnd 23	[sc in next 3 sts, dec] 6 times.	24
☐ Rnd 24	[sc in next st, dec, sc in next st] 6 times.	18
☐ Rnd 25	[sc in next st, dec] 6 times.	12
☐ Rnd 26	Dec around. <i>Fasten off and close the hole.</i>	6

3

Large ball

66 stitches at the widest round.

A · Stripes, any colours

Make 1

RND	INSTRUCTIONS	STS
☐ Rnd 1	6 sc in a magic ring.	6
☐ Rnd 2	Inc in each st around.	12
Tip. Stripes: change colour every 2 rounds, in the last stitch of the round before the stripe. Carry the colours up inside, or cut and knot them inside. Use as many colours as you like.		
☐ Rnd 3	[sc in next st, inc] 6 times.	18
☐ Rnd 4	[sc in next 2 sts, inc] 6 times.	24
☐ Rnd 5	[sc in next st, inc, sc in next 2 sts] 6 times.	30
☐ Rnd 6	[sc in next 4 sts, inc] 6 times.	36
☐ Rnd 7	[sc in next 2 sts, inc, sc in next 3 sts] 6 times.	42
☐ Rnd 8	[sc in next 6 sts, inc] 6 times.	48
☐ Rnd 9	[sc in next 3 sts, inc, sc in next 4 sts] 6 times.	54
☐ Rnd 10	[sc in next 8 sts, inc] 6 times.	60
☐ Rnd 11	[sc in next 4 sts, inc, sc in next 5 sts] 6 times.	66
☐ Rnds 12–22	Sc in each st around.	66
☐ Rnd 23	[sc in next 9 sts, dec] 6 times.	60
☐ Rnd 24	[sc in next 4 sts, dec, sc in next 4 sts] 6 times.	54
Tip. Start stuffing now. Fill the ball firmly and evenly, a tuft at a time.		
☐ Rnd 25	[sc in next 7 sts, dec] 6 times.	48
☐ Rnd 26	[sc in next 3 sts, dec, sc in next 3 sts] 6 times.	42
☐ Rnd 27	[sc in next 5 sts, dec] 6 times.	36
☐ Rnd 28	[sc in next 2 sts, dec, sc in next 2 sts] 6 times.	30
☐ Rnd 29	[sc in next 3 sts, dec] 6 times.	24
☐ Rnd 30	[sc in next st, dec, sc in next st] 6 times.	18

☐ **Rnd 31** [sc in next st, dec] 6 times.

12

☐ **Rnd 32** Dec around.
Fasten off and close the hole.

6

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

Finishing your balls

● Placement guide

- Hide the colour-change steps (the "jog") on one side of the ball.



1

Close and shape. Close the hole, weave the tail into the ball and roll it between your hands to round it.



● Finishing & care

- Weave in every end inside the ball.
- Machine wash cool in a laundry bag (cotton or acrylic). Dry flat.

HELP IS HERE

Troubleshooting

The questions makers ask most, answered before you need to ask.

My ball is lumpy.

Use small tufts of stuffing and add them evenly.
Roll the ball to settle them.

My ball looks like a hexagon.

The staggered rounds keep it round. Check each increase round against the pattern.

I can see stuffing.

Use a smaller hook or a tighter tension.

The stripes have a step.

That is the spiral. Keep the steps in a line at the back.

My ball is smaller than the size given.

Your tension is tight. For children under 3, it must still be over 4.5 cm: use a bigger size.

My stitch count is off.

Count from the marker and frog back to the last round that matched its pill.

PRINT ME

Project tracker

Keep this page next to your work. Tick off each piece and round.

YARN USED

HOOK SIZE

STARTED

FINISHED

MADE FOR

FINISHED SIZE

Pieces

1	Small ball	Make 1	☐
2	Medium ball	Make 1	☐
3	Large ball	Make 1	☐

Round counter

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36

My notes



Thank you for making with us!

We hope you enjoyed making Soft Play Balls as much as we enjoyed designing it.

We are here to help

Stuck on a round, or something does not look right? Message us where you bought this pattern, with the pattern name and the round number. We reply fast and stay with you until your piece is finished.

A free pattern, from us

As a thank-you for your order, message us with the YaraDream pattern you would like next and we will send it to you free.

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Make it again in new colours



Rainbow

Five soft rainbow colours.



Sea

Blue, white and seafoam.



Neutral

Oat, cream and sand.

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THE SMALL PRINT

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