



Raised centre



Cup in place

Pop-Up Lizard Coaster

A playful cup coaster, one small stitch at a time.

TERMS	HOOKS	YARN	FORMAT
US crochet	2.0 and 3.5 mm	4-ply cotton	Photo pattern

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Before you begin

Make a little lizard that changes pose when a cup presses its domed centre. The guide takes you through the body, pointed tail, red-lined mouth, eyes and four three-toed limbs.

Read the pattern before starting. Use two strands for the body and limbs, and one strand for the smaller pieces. Keep the body unfilled and test its movement before adding the face.

The making photographs show each part in working order. Use the pattern notes and the contents links on the next page to find your place.

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Pattern notes

Read the working notes first, then use the contents links to jump to a section.

How to use the guide

01 Prepare the right yarn and hooks. Use two strands for the body and limbs; one strand for the small pieces. The switch gives the base more structure without making the face bulky.

02 Count actual stitches. Starting and turning chains do not add to the displayed stitch totals. Make the chain at the start of each round once. Slst joins are not extra stitches.

03 Keep the small parts oriented. The red oval lines the mouth. Jaws are worked across the last round of the head tube. The original chain opening is the rear of the head.

04 Make and test the body first. It needs to flex between a dome and a depressed centre. Check it before attaching the face. Do not block it into a permanently flat circle.

05 Finish slowly. Position the head and tail opposite each other, mark the four limb sites from their seams, and test with an empty cool cup before using a drink.

Size and yarn quantity

Measured gauge, total yarn quantity and a fixed finished measurement are not specified. Yarn substitution and tension can change both size and movement.

Skills used

Chains, slip stitches, sc, hdc, dc, increases, two-stitch decreases, joined rounds, reverse single crochet, small seams and weaving in ends. This is a small-parts project rather than an absolute-beginner stitch lesson.

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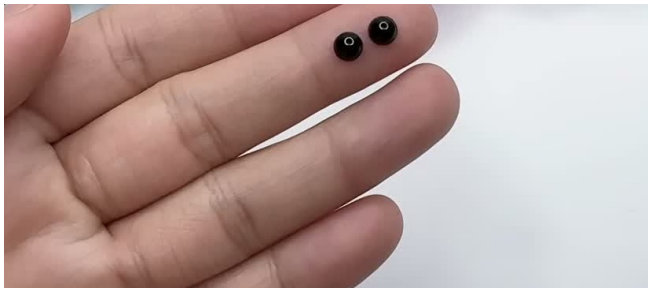
Yarn, hooks and small details

Cotton yarn labelled 4 ply, approximately 1.5 mm thick. Use green or turquoise, red, pink and white.



GREEN / TURQUOISE. Two strands are held together for the body and the four limbs.



TWO PUPILS. Use two 5 mm black pupils. Embroidered pupils are an alternative.

PART	YARN AND TOOLS	HOOK
Body + limbs	Green/turquoise cotton held double.	3.5 mm
Other parts	One strand, matching the same yarn thickness.	2.0 mm
Also needed	Yarn needle, scissors, markers and a small amount of head filling.	

US terms

MR / ch / slst	magic ring / chain / slip stitch
sc / hdc / dc	single / half double / double crochet
inc / dc inc	2 sc / 2 dc into one stitch
hdc2tog / dc2tog	work 2 adjacent hdc / dc together
R / st / sts	round or row / stitch / stitches

Use only a little filling in the head. The body and pointed tail are not stuffed. Secure loose parts; this coaster is not intended as a baby toy or as protection under hot cookware.

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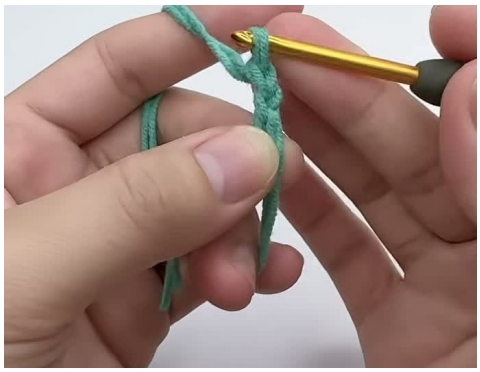
Start the moving base

Green or turquoise · two strands · 3.5 mm hook · joined rounds. Keep both strands together through every stitch.

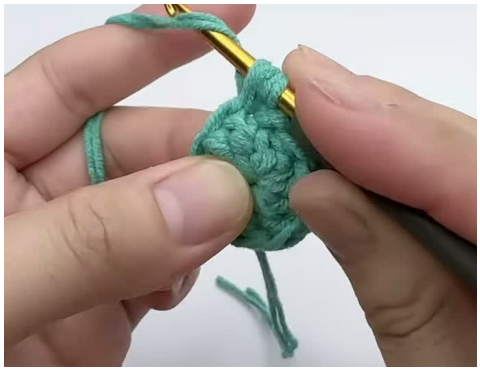
ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
R1	Make an MR, ch 2, then 10 dc into the ring. Tighten the ring and join with slst.	10
R2	Ch 2; work 2 dc in each of the 10 stitches. Join with slst.	20



1 MAGIC RING. The two-chain lift sits beside the stitches; it does not add to the total.



2 ROUND 1. Work 10 dc into the ring before closing the first round.



3 ROUND 2. Work the two dc of each increase into the same stitch.



4 COUNT TO 20. Mark the first stitch and confirm all ten increases.

Do not count the join

After joining a round, count only the actual dc. If you count the slst or starting chain as an extra stitch, the next round will no longer fit.

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Build rounds 3 and 4

Continue with the same two strands and 3.5 mm hook. The body increases by ten stitches in each round.

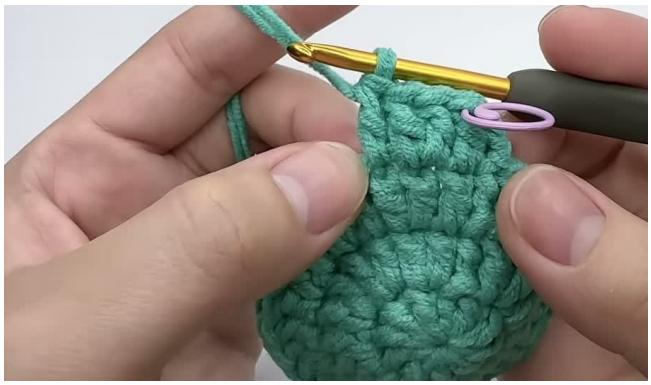
ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
R3	Ch 2; repeat (1 dc, dc inc) 10 times. Join with slst.	30
R4	Ch 2; repeat (1 dc, dc inc, 1 dc) 10 times. Join with slst.	40



5 ROUND 3. Each repeat uses two old stitches and makes three new stitches.



6 AFTER ROUND 3. The round has 30 dc. Keep the starting position marked.



7 ROUND 4. The increase sits between the two single dc of the repeat.



8 AFTER ROUND 4. Ten repeats give 40 dc around the body.

Check before the border

The sequence is 10, 20, 30, 40 dc. Do not replace it with a standard 12, 24, 36, 48 flat coaster base; that is a different construction.

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Finish the flexible edge

The reverse-sc border contains 40 stitches. Keep it flexible enough for the domed base to move.

ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
R5	Ch 1; work 1 reverse sc in each stitch around. Join and fasten off.	40

Reverse sc: right-handed makers work ordinary sc into successive stitches to the right, travelling backwards around the rim. Left-handed makers mirror the direction. Keep the hook moving through existing stitches without adding increases.



9 REVERSE SC. Work backwards along the existing outer round.



10 KEEP IT EVEN. Continue once around all 40 stitches; do not tighten the rim excessively.



11 HIDE THE ENDS. Secure the yarn through nearby stitches rather than across the centre.



12 FLEX THE RIM. Gently stretch the outer border if the centre will not flip.

Test the bare body

Set it dome-up and press the centre with a finger. The rim should be able to move. If it is locked tight, check the count, then ease the border gently. Do not pull hard enough to break or distort the yarn.

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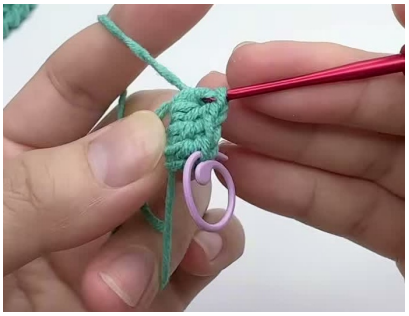
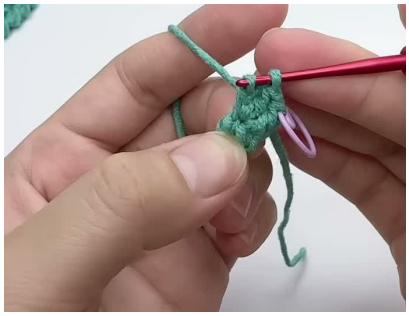
Crochet the pointed tail

Make one · green/turquoise · one strand · 2.0 mm hook. Work in joined rounds and leave the wide end open.

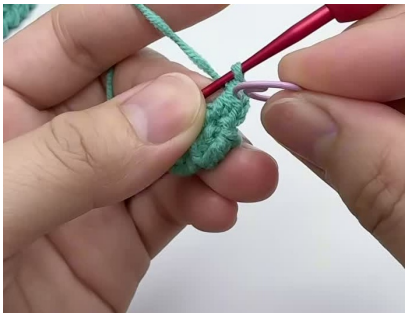
ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
R1	MR, ch 2, 4 dc in the ring; tighten and join.	4
R2	Ch 2; repeat (1 dc, dc inc) twice; join.	6
R3	Ch 2; 1 dc in each stitch; join.	6
R4	Ch 2; repeat (2 dc, dc inc) twice; join. Leave a sewing end.	8



13 START AT THE TIP. Round 1 begins with 4 dc in a tightened magic ring.



14 INCREASE TO 6. Round 2 has two increases.



15 KEEP ROUND 3 AT 6. The unchanged round creates a short tapered tube.



16 WIDE END: 8. After round 4, keep a long end for sewing.

Flatten the tube gently. The MR is the free pointed tip; the open 8-stitch edge is sewn to the rear of the body. Leave this part unfilled.

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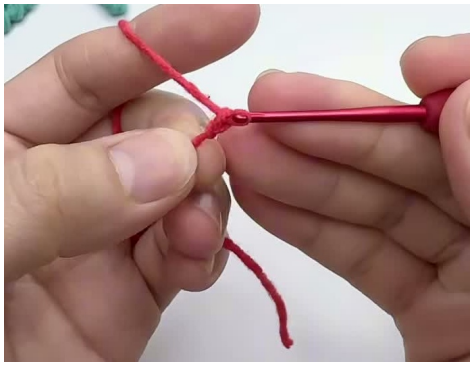
Work around the red chain

Make one · red · one strand · 2.0 mm hook. Work around both sides of the same foundation chain.

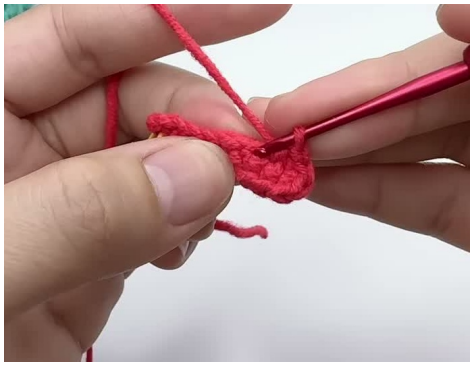
ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
R1	Ch 10. From the second ch: 8 sc, then 3 sc in the last ch. Work along the other side: 7 sc, then 2 sc in the starting chain. Join.	20



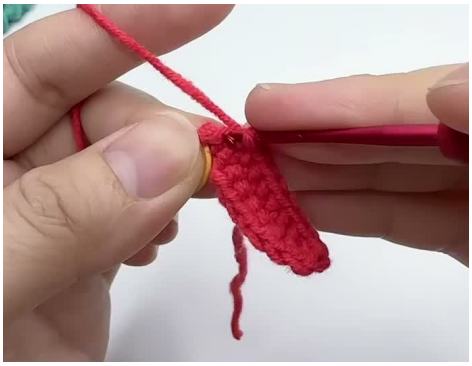
17 CHAIN 10. Keep the chain untwisted; skip only the chain nearest the hook.



18 FIRST SIDE. Work the first 8 sc along the chain.



19 TURN THE END. The 3 sc in the final chain turn the oval around the far end.



20 COMPLETE THE OVAL. Work back along the unused chain loops, then close the round.

Why the count is 20

8 sc + 3 sc at the far end + 7 sc on the return side + 2 sc at the starting end = 20. The first and last worked chain positions each receive three stitches in total across both sides. Do not crochet a second foundation chain.

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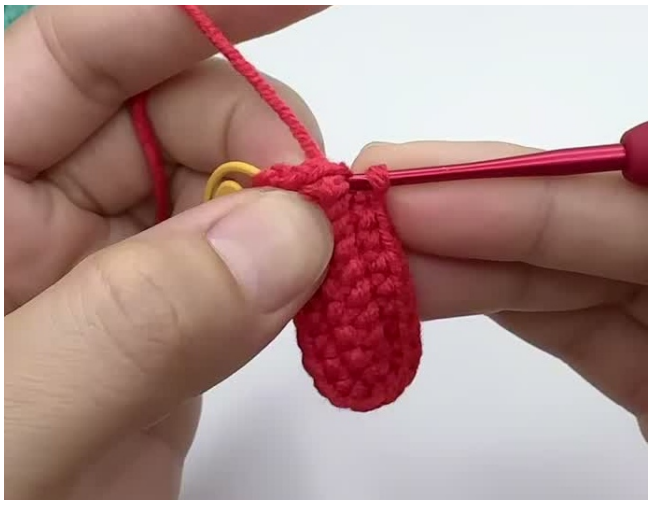
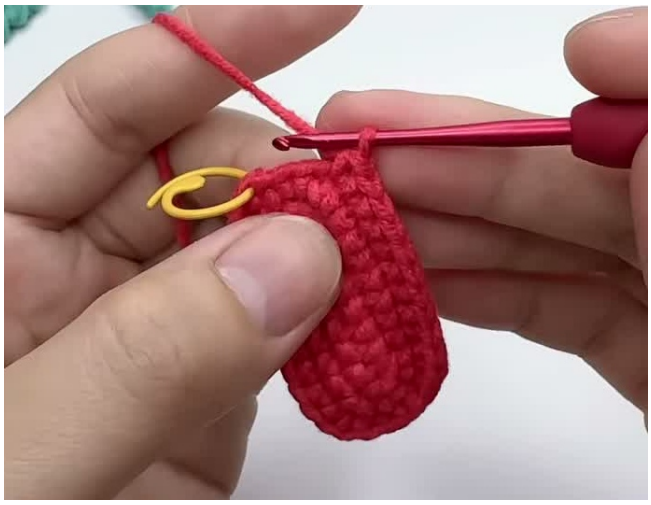
Enlarge the red oval

Each new round adds six stitches. Mark the beginning so the increases stay at the curved ends.

ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
R2	Ch 1; inc, 7 sc, inc in each of the next 3 sts, 7 sc, inc in each of the final 2 sts. Join.	26
R3	Ch 1; (sc, inc), 7 sc, (sc, inc) 3 times, 7 sc, (sc, inc) twice. Join and fasten off.	32



21 ROUND 2 / 26 SC. The groups of increases expand the two curved ends.



22 ROUND 3 / 32 SC. Finish with 32 sc and hide the red end on the reverse.

Keep the two long sides clear

The two runs of 7 sc remain the long sides. The grouped increases belong around the ends; do not distribute extra increases randomly around the oval.

Keep the inside face tidy

Choose the face that will show inside the mouth. Place the red and pink yarn ends on the reverse, where the green head will cover them. Do not add another round to match a guessed head measurement.

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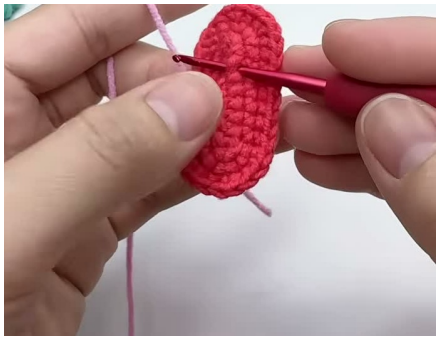
Add the pink tongue

Pink · one strand · 2.0 mm hook. This strip is worked directly from the red mouthpiece.

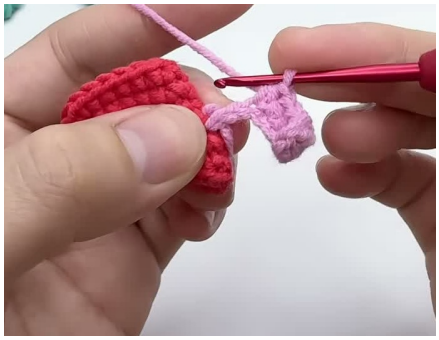
ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
Anchor	Locate the third stitch along the red foundation chain on the inside face, using the photo below. Join pink yarn.	
Tongue	Ch 10. From the third chain from the hook, work 8 hdc back towards the red oval.	8
Finish	Secure at the attachment and weave the pink ends onto the reverse.	



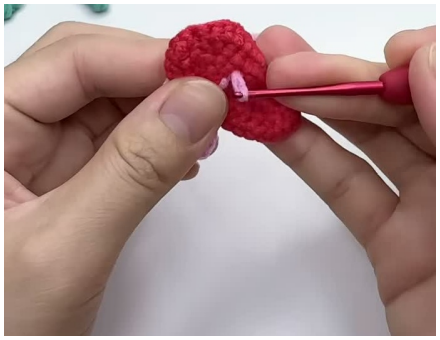
23 JOIN PINK YARN. Use the original red foundation chain as the placement reference.



24 CHAIN 10. The chain extends from the inside face of the red oval.



25 RETURN WITH 8 HDC. Skip two chains, then work back to the attachment.



26 SECURE THE END. Leave the tongue on the visible inside face and hide the ends behind.

A hdc uses one yarn-over, one loop pulled through the stitch, then a final yarn-over pulled through all three loops on the hook. Keep the tongue soft rather than tightly stretched.

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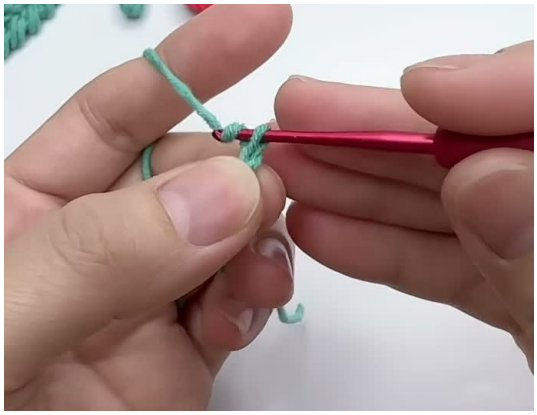
Make the head tube

Green/turquoise · one strand · 2.0 mm hook. The head has two open ends at this stage.

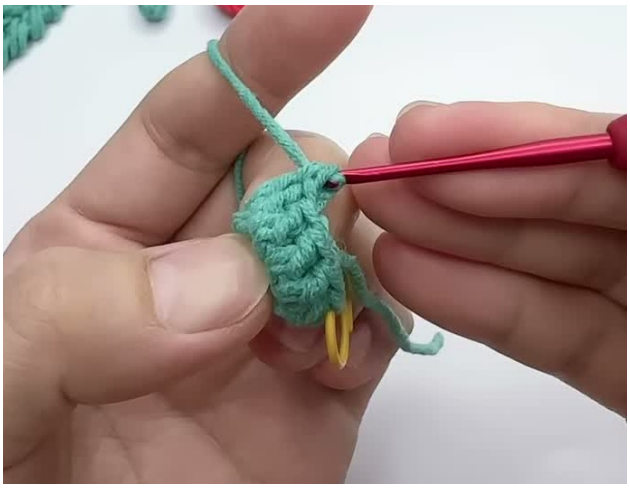
ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
Foundation	Ch 14 and slst into the first chain to form an untwisted ring.	14 ch
R2	Ch 1; hdc2tog, 10 dc, hdc2tog. Join.	12



27 CHAIN 14. Make a foundation long enough to form the small ring.



28 JOIN THE RING. Check for twisting before joining the first and last chain.



29 FIRST WORKED ROUND. The first worked round reduces 14 foundation positions to 12 stitches. Keep the foundation opening at the rear of the head.

hdc2tog: yarn over and pull up a loop in the next stitch; yarn over and pull up a loop in the following stitch; yarn over and draw through all five loops. Each decrease uses two old stitches and makes one new stitch.

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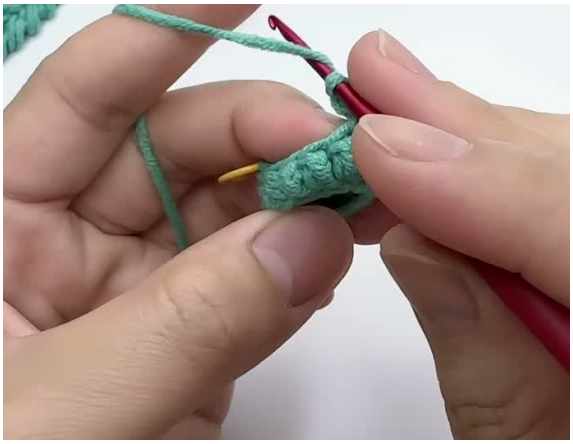
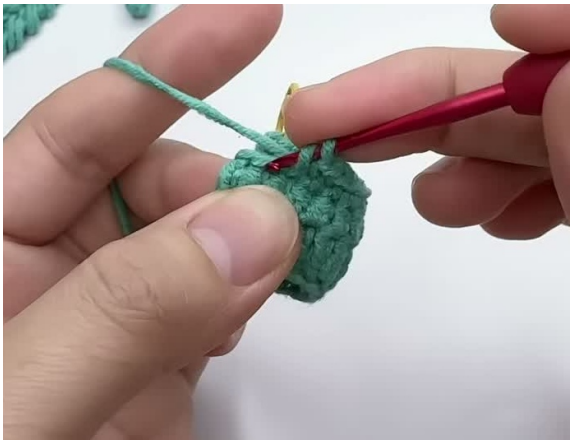
Shape the head opening

The mixed dc, hdc and sc heights are intentional. Keep the stitch order as written.

ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
R3	Ch 2; dc inc, 2 dc, 6 hdc, 2 dc, dc inc. Join.	14
R4	Ch 2; 2 dc, 3 hdc, 4 sc, 3 hdc, 2 dc. Join and fasten off.	14



30 ROUND 3 / 14 STS. The dc increases at the ends restore the count from 12 to 14.



31 ROUND 4 / 14 STS. The middle four sc are shorter than the surrounding stitches.



32 HEAD TUBE. Fasten off after the final head round. The next yarn join is repositioned for the upper jaw.

Identify the two edges.

The 14 foundation chains form the rear opening.

The final 14-stitch round forms the jaw edge. Count along this edge for the jaw join on the next page.

Do not close the mouth end

The upper and lower jaws are built onto the final round. Do not sew that round shut or attach the red mouthpiece to the rear foundation opening.

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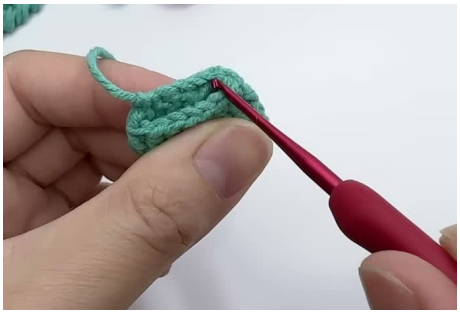
Work the upper jaw in rows

On the final head round, skip four stitches and join green in stitch 5. Work across eight head-edge stitches.

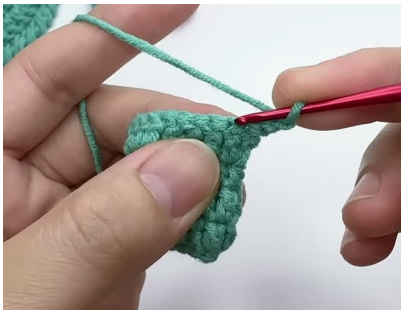
ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
Row 1	Join at stitch 5 of the final head round. Ch 2; dc inc, 6 dc, dc inc.	10
Row 2	Ch 2, turn; dc2tog, 6 dc, dc2tog.	8
Row 3	Ch 2, turn; dc2tog, 4 dc, dc2tog.	6
Row 4	Ch 2, turn; dc2tog, 2 dc, dc2tog. Fasten off.	4



33 REPOSITION THE JOIN. The hook points to the fifth stitch of the jaw edge.



34 ROW 1 / 10 STS. An increase at each end turns 8 old stitches into 10.



35 ROW 2 / 8 STS. Turn and decrease once at each edge.



36 ROW 4 / 4 STS. After rows 3 and 4, only 4 stitches remain.

dc2tog: work each of the next two dc only as far as its last yarn-over; with three loops remaining, yarn over and pull through all three. One decrease consumes two stitches. The chain-2 lift does not add to the row total.

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Fit the red mouthpiece

The remaining six stitches of the final head round make the lower jaw. Use one strand and the 2.0 mm hook.

ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
Row 1	Join across the remaining 6 head-edge stitches. Ch 1; 6 hdc.	6
Row 2	Ch 1, turn; hdc2tog, 2 hdc, hdc2tog.	4

After row 2, ch 1 and turn. Place the red oval inside the two green jaws with the tongue facing out into the mouth. Work sc through both the red edge and the green mouth perimeter to join them.



37 LOWER ROW 1 / 6. Work one hdc in each of the six remaining edge stitches.



38 LOWER ROW 2 / 4. hdc2tog, 2 hdc, hdc2tog is the verified second row.



39 JOIN BOTH LAYERS. Catch the lining and the green mouth edge together.



40 COMPLETE THE RIM. Continue around the mouth, join, fasten off and hide the ends.

Ease the red curve around the jaw row ends. No fixed joining-border count is specified, so do not force one red stitch into every green row-end space or invent a total.

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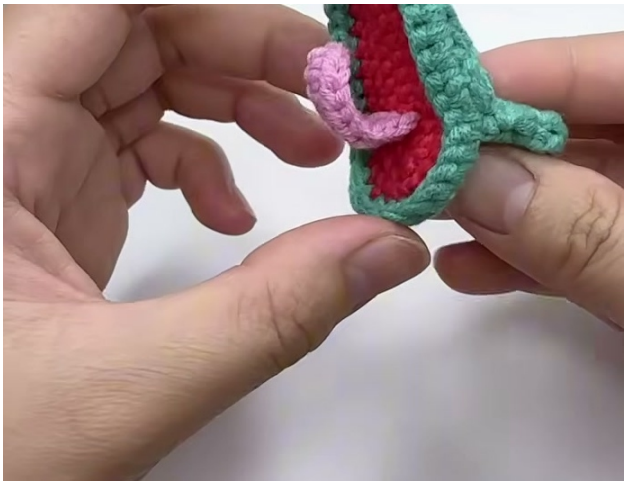
Tidy the seams and fill the head

Finish the head while it is still separate from the moving base. The red lining should sit neatly inside the green jaws.



41 TIDY THE GREEN SEAM. Use the green yarn end to close and neaten the small seam behind the mouth.



42 CHECK THE MOUTH. The pink tongue stays inside the red lining; the green rim frames it.



43 LIGHTLY FILL THE HEAD. Add a little filling through the rear opening, as shown. Keep the opening accessible for attaching the head to the body.

01 Use a small amount. Add enough filling to support the forehead, without forcing the mouth shut or making the head heavy.

02 Keep the movement clear. Do not push filling down into the body. The body must remain one flexible, unfilled layer.

If filling shows through the stitches, reduce the amount and recheck the small-hook tension. A rigid, densely packed head can pull on the rim and change the movement.

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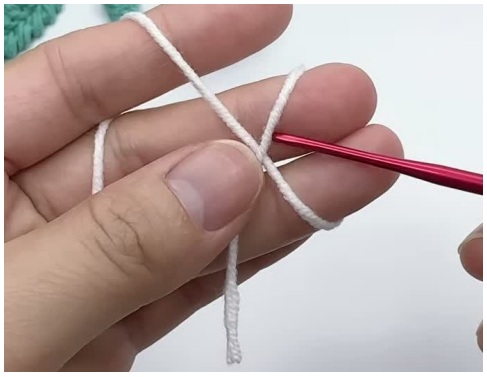
Make two eye bumps

White · one strand · 2.0 mm hook. Each white bump has two rounds of six sc.

ROUND / ROW	INSTRUCTIONS	COUNT
R1	White yarn: MR, 6 sc. Tighten the ring and join.	6
R2	Ch 1; 6 sc. Join and leave an attachment end.	6



44 WHITE MAGIC RING. Begin with a small ring and six sc, then tighten.



45 SECOND ROUND. Keep six stitches in the second round; no increases.



46 FINISHED WHITE BUMP. Fasten off, keeping an end for attachment, and repeat for the second eye.



47 ADD THE PUPILS. Attach the white bumps above the mouth, then add the black pupils.

Secure the details

Position one eye on each side of the forehead before fixing them. Glue may be used for the eye details. Sew or embroider securely where possible, and keep loose small parts away from children.

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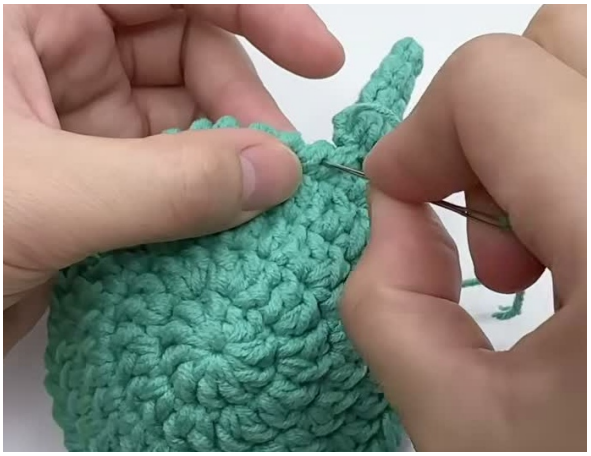
Attach the two end pieces

Use the same body face and orientation throughout. The head and tail sit opposite each other at the rim.



48 TAIL TO REAR RIM. Place the wide tail opening against the outer body edge.



49 SEW THE TAIL. Catch both flattened tail layers securely; leave the pointed tip free.



50 HEAD TO OPPOSITE RIM. Keep the mouth pointing away from the body centre.



51 SECURE THE HEAD. Catch the rear head layers and body edge together with small stitches.

Sew along the edge, not across the centre

Anchor the end pieces over a short section of the rim. Do not draw a tight thread across the body or stitch the dome to a backing. Both changes can restrict the moving base.

Look at the coaster from above and underneath before weaving in the sewing ends. The tail should extend behind, and the red-lined mouth should face outward at the front.

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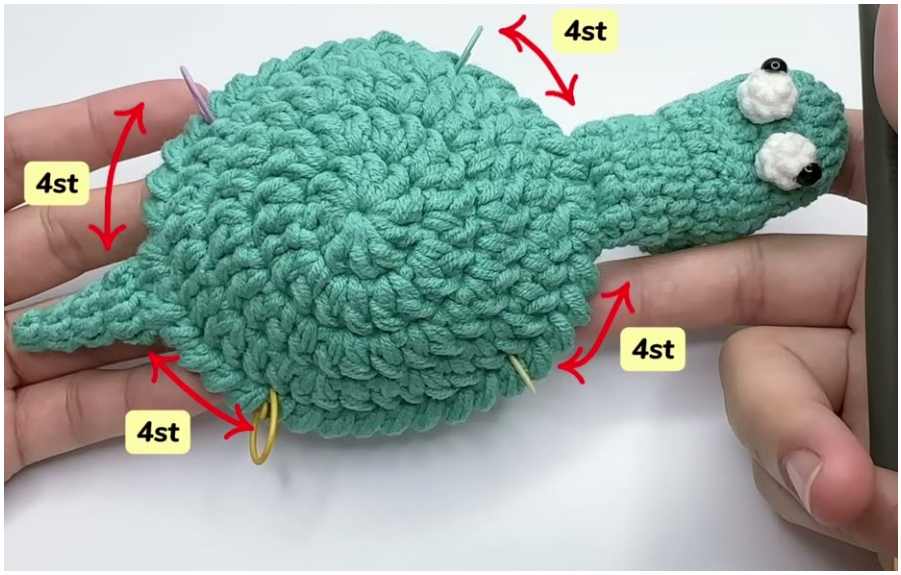
Mark the limb positions

Return to two green/turquoise strands and the 3.5 mm hook. The limbs are crocheted directly onto the body edge.



52 FOUR ATTACHMENT SITES. Use the four-stitch spacing shown at the sides of the head and tail attachments. This is spacing along the rim, not distance from the centre of the dome.



53 KEEP FOUR MARKERS. Mark one position beside each side of the head and tail seams.



54 START A LIMB. Join at a marker, then chain 7 away from the body.

Allow for the width of the seams

The head and tail occupy several edge stitches. Follow the visible spacing from their attachment sides. Count the gap along the rim rather than from the centre of the head. The photo is the placement reference.

Use removable markers only. Take out the marker at each working site as you begin that limb; remove every remaining marker when the coaster is finished.

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Crochet each three-toed limb

Repeat at all four marked sites. Each limb begins with ch 7 and ends with four sc returning towards the body.

01 Make toe 1. After ch 7, skip the nearest chain and slst in the next 2 chains. The second worked chain is the shared toe hub.

02 Make toe 2. Ch 2; slst in the second chain from the hook, then slst back into the hub.

03 Make toe 3. Repeat the same ch-2 branch and return to the same hub.

04 Return along the leg. Work 1 sc in each of the 4 unused foundation chains. Slst to the body attachment, fasten off and secure the ends.



55 TOE 1 AND HUB. The worked tip of ch 7 is the first toe.



56 ADD A CH-2 BRANCH. One slst goes into the branch chain; the next returns to the hub.



57 THREE TOES. The two added branches sit beside the original chain tip.



58 FOUR SC BACK. The four unused chains form the length of the limb.

Count check: 7 chains minus 1 skipped chain minus 2 chains used for the first toe leaves 4 chains for the return sc. Do not add an extra branch or replace the four limbs with tail-shaped tubes.

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From four limbs to a cup

Finish every attachment and remove all markers. Reset the body dome before the first cup test.



59 JOIN BACK TO BODY. After the four return sc, secure the limb at its attachment.



60 WEAVE IN THE ENDS. Hide ends locally around the rim. Keep the moving centre free.



61 TRIM ONLY SECURED ENDS. Check each end is woven in before trimming.



62 CHECK ALL FOUR LIMBS. Inspect the whole coaster before testing the movement.



63 DOME UP. Place the unweighted coaster on the table with the centre raised.



64 CUP CENTRED. Lower an empty, cool cup slowly onto the centre and check it is steady.

Reset the dome by hand between trials. The first test is for stability and movement, not heat protection. Do not use a filled drink until the cup sits securely in the depressed centre.

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Check the result

Work through the relevant check before changing the stitch pattern. Tension and attachment position affect the finished movement.

PART	CHECK	TOTALS
Body	dc rounds, followed by the reverse-sc border.	10 / 20 / 30 / 40 / 40
Tail	Four joined dc rounds.	4 / 6 / 6 / 8
Mouth	Three sc rounds around the chain.	20 / 26 / 32
Head	Foundation 14 ch, then three worked rounds.	12 / 14 / 14
Jaws	Upper jaw / lower jaw.	10 / 8 / 6 / 4; 6 / 4
Eyes / tongue	Two rounds per eye / one tongue strip.	6 / 6; 8 hdc

If something is wrong

Base stays flat. Check the 10-stitch start and two-strand body setup. Do not substitute a flat 12-stitch circle or block away the dome.

Base is too tight to flip. Check for accidental decreases in the border; gently ease the rim as on page 7. Do not yank it or add random stitches.

Mouth twists or bulges. Recheck upper 10/8/6/4 and lower 6/4. Check the red oval ends and ease its rim around the green row ends.

Foot has the wrong shape. Each foot has one original-chain toe plus two branches at a shared hub. Four foundation chains remain for the leg.

Cup is unstable. Stop using a filled cup. Recheck the depressed centre, yarn thickness, tension and attachments before trying again.

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Thank you for making with us

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