

# Maisha

99% homemade :-)



## Nine

*Frankenstein's cat, from the book by Curtis Jobling :-)*



This summer a very special girl turned 5, and I wanted to give her a homemade present. I asked her mother if she was especially fond of any particular animals at the time, and she immediately sent me a photo of Nine – Frankenstein's cat from [the book by Curtis Jobling](#)<sup>1</sup>. The girl had often asked her mother if she could sew this for her, but her mother claims to be less than handy at sewing ;-). Actually a creative spirit has already sewn one and made [the directions](#) available online. However, I prefer crochet for projects like this, because it's so easy to shape.



I wanted to work from my stash alone, so some colours are adapted slightly. Most of it is worsted weight wool or acrylic. To make it tight and avoid showing stuffing, everything is made using a D-3 (3 mm) needle. The legs and neck are supported with pipe cleaners so that he can stand up right and hold his head. Most of the parts are made separately and then sewn onto the rest as you go.

## Size:

I think he's about 10 " tall (I forgot to measure before I mailed him ;-))

## Materials:

Worsted weight yarn in the following colours – check the photos for visual references :-)

- **2 kinds of** light brown/beige
- light green
- green
- red
- white
- blue (well, turquoise really)
- dark brown
- black
- orange

*NB: I made him to look as close to the original from the book as possible – if you're*

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<sup>1</sup> This link is my affiliate link for the book at amazon.co.uk. If you'd like to buy the book (or any other) via this link, I get 5% from Amazon :-). But you should of course buy it just where you'd like!

*making him just because you think he's cute, you can change colours as you see fit :-)*

In addition to yarn, you'll need:

- pipe cleaners (or other material to support limbs etc) – remember to always use them in pairs, with both ends wrapped ½” around each other to avoid sharp ends
- black felt
- crochet stitch marker
- stuffing
- crochet needle US size D-3 (3 mm)
- black and red sewing thread
- sewing needle and wool needle

## Stitch explanations, techniques and tips:

- sl st – slip stitch
- ch – chain stitch
- sc – single crochet
- dc – double crochet
- 2sctog – decrease: decrease invisibly by first inserting needle into **front loop** of first stitch without picking up yarn, then **front loop** of second stitch. Now yarn over and do a regular sc.
- Magic ring (aka loop, circle)– make a loop and in this 1 sl st to close ring. Now **either** do a) 5 sc and end by sl st into first sl st **or** b) 6 sc, end round. Pull loop tight. Tutorial [here](#).
- He's made **amigurumi** style – that means everything is crocheted in a spiral without joining rounds. You keep track of rounds by using a stitch marker in the first stitch of the round, which is removed and replaced every time you pass it. Note that the rounds will travel to the right.
- I never do increases or decreases in the same spot on every round, to avoid making the work hexagonal. The easiest way I know to write this in the pattern is to add a parenthesis saying to *displace by x stitches*. This means that you do x number of sc's before doing the inc's or dec's as specified. So when you read "(displace by 2 sts) **2sctog, sc in next** 6 times", this means "2 sc, **2 sc in the st after this (increase), 1 sc in the next st** – repeat bold 6 times". I hope it's clear :-)  
And please tell me if it isn't so I can do better!

# Pattern:

## Body:

Use orange yarn.

- Round 1: 6 st in magic ring.
- Round 2: **2 sc** 6 times. 12 sts.
- Round 3: **2sctog, 1 sc in next** 6 times. 18 sts.
- Round 4: (displace by 2 st) **2sctog, sc in next 2 st** 6 times. 24 sts.
- Round 5: (displace by 1 st) **2sctog, sc in next 3 st** 6 times. 30 sts.
- Round 6: (displace by 3 st) **2sctog, sc in next 4 st** 6 times. 36 sts.
- Round 7: **2sctog, sc in next 5 st** 6 times. 42 sts.
- Round 8-32: sc in all sts.
- Round 33: ch 5, skip 5 sc (neck opening), then sc in all sts. 42 sts.



Now insert pipe cleaners in pairs where you think the legs should be, as shown here. Wrap the ends over each other and in, so there are no sharp ends. I also inserted pipe cleaners for the tail here, but that was really difficult to work – I suggest you skip this and see pattern for tail below.



Begin decreasing:

- Round 34: **2sctog, sc in next 5 st** 6 times. 36 sts.
- Round 35: (displace by 3 st) **2sctog, sc in next 4 st** 6 times. 30 sts.
- Round 36: **2sctog, sc in next 3 st** 6 times. 24 sts.

Start stuffing and continue stuffing to the last decrease.

- Round 37: (displace by 2 st) **2sctog, sc in next 2 st** 6 times. 18 sts.
- Round 38: **2sctog, 1 sc in next st** 6 times. 12 sts.
- Round 39: **2sctog** 6 times. 6 sts. Break yarn and weave ends.

With black felt, cut out 3 elongated diamond shaped pieces and sew onto body using black sewing thread and needle. They should be about 3/4" wide at the center and 4" long. Use the photo at the top of the page for reference.

## Legs:

Make 4 – one of each of the colours dark brown, light brown, blue and black.

- Round 1: 6 st in magic ring.
- Round 2: **2 sc** 6 times. 12 sts.
- Round 3: **2sctog, 1 sc in next** 6 times. 18 sts.
- Round 4: (displace by 2 sts) **2sctog, sc in next 2 st** 6 times. 24 sts.
- Round 5-10: sc in all sts.
- Round 11: **2sctog** 8 times, sc in remaining sts. 16 sts.
- Round 12: sc in all sts to 2 sts before marker, 2sctog and pm. Now begin stuffing. 15 sts.
- Round 13: **2sctog** 5 times, sc in last 4 sts. 10 sts.
- Round 14-18: sc in all sts. Break yarn, leaving a 10 " tail for sewing.



Sew onto body by first inserting the pipe cleaners, placing the legs so that the decreases (which shape the paw) are turned upwards. Stuff firmly and sew onto body with yarn tail.

## Tail:

Use **light green** and **black**. I started by making a tube, and after the first 2 black stripes I pulled it down over the pipe cleaners, sewed it on and stuffed, before I continued – but that was not easy to work. I suggest you follow the pattern below but instead of sewing the tail on after a while, insert 2 pairs of pipe cleaners so that they stick out about 2" from the bottom of the tube, and then close it off at the bottom with safety pins. That way you can start stuffing and just keep going. After you finish it, you can then insert the pipe cleaner (remember to wrap ends over in pairs) into the body, remove pins and sew onto body with tail from cast-on :-)  
Perhaps you could also work the tail from the top while stuffing and inserting pipe cleaners, and then end off with 5" of pipe cleaners to insert in the body and sew onto body with cast-off yarn tail? Your call :-)



- Round 1: with **green**, ch 12, join with sl st to form a ring. Continue without joining (in spiral).
- Round 2-10: sc in all sts.

- Round 11-14: with **black**, sc in all sts.
- Round 15: **2sctog, sc in 3 next** 3 times. 15 sts.
- Round 16-25: with **green**, sc in all sts.
- Round 26-29: with **black**, sc in all sts.
- Round 30: **2sctog, sc in 4 next** 3 times. 18 sts.

Now insert pipe cleaners and begin stuffing. Attach more pipe cleaners as you go by wrapping ends around each other. Continue stuffing as you go.



- Round 31-40: with **green**, sc in all sts.
- Round 41-44: with **black**, sc in all sts.
- Round 45: **2sctog, sc in 5 next** 3 times. 21 sts.
- Round 46-55: with **green**, sc in all sts.
- Round 56-59: with **black**, sc in all sts.
- Round 60: **2sctog, sc in 6 next** 3 times. 24 sts.
- Round 61-70: with **green**, sc in all sts.
- Round 71-74: with **black**, sc in all sts.
- Round 75: **2sctog, sc in 7 next** 3 times. 27 sts. End black.
- Round 76-85: with **green**, sc in all sts.

Now start decreasing:

- Round 86: **2sctog, sc in 7 next** 3 times. 24 sts.
- Round 87: sc in all sts.
- Round 88: **2sctog, sc in 2 next** 6 times. 18 sts.
- Round 89: **2sm, sc in next** 6 times. 12 sts.

Add the last stuffing.

- Round 90: **2sctog** 6 times. 6 sts. Break yarn and thread through remaining 6 sts, pull tight and weave end.

## Head:

Start with the darker of the beige yarns:

- Round 1: 6 sts in magic ring.
- Round 2: **2 sc** 6 times. 12 sts.
- Round 3: **2 sc in first, sc in next** 6 times. 18 sts.
- Round 4: (displace by 1 st) **2sctog, sc in 2 next** 6 times. 24 sts.



- Round 5: (displace by 3 sts) **2 sc in first, sc in 3 next** 6 times. 30 sts.
- Round 6: **2 sc in first, sc in 4 next** 6 times. 36 sts.
- Round 7: (displace by 3 sts) **2 sc in first, sc in 5 next** 6 times. 42 sts.
- Round 8: sc in all sts.
- Round 9: **2 sc in first, sc in 6 next** 6 times. 48 sts.
- Round 10: sc in all sts.
- Round 11: **2 sc in first, sc in 7 next** 6 times. 54 sts.
- Round 12: sc in all sts.
- Round 13: **2 sc in first, sc in 8 next** 6 times. 60 sts.
- Round 14-21: sc in all sts.

Now change colours to lighter beige.

- Round 23-25: sc in all sts.

Start decreasing:

- Round 26: **2sctog, sc in 8 next** 6 times. 54 sts.
- Round 27: sc in all sts.
- Round 28: **2sctog, sc in 7 next** 6 times. 48 sts.
- Round 29: sc in all sts.
- Round 30: **2sctog, sc in 6 next** 6 times. 42 sts.
- Round 31: sc in all sts.
- Round 32: **2sctog, sc in 5 next** 6 times. 36 sts.
- Round 33: (displace by 2 st) **2sctog, sc in 4 next** 6 times. 30 sts.
- Round 34: **2sctog, sc in 3 next** 6 times. 24 sts.
- Round 35: (displace by 1 st) **2sctog, sc in 2 next** 6 times. 18 sts.
- Round 36: **2sctog, sc in next** 6 times. 12 sts.
- Round 37: **2sctog** 6 times. 6 sts.

Break yarn and thread through 6 remaining sts, pull tight and weave all ends.

Now stitch on the scar using dark brown where the colours change all the way around the ball. Don't make it too neat – it's supposed to be a little uneven :-)



## Neck:

With dark brown, pick up 12 sts in the opening on the body, that you made for the neck.

- Round 2-7: sc in all sts.

Break yarn and leave a 10" tail for sewing.



## Attach head to neck:

Using 8-10 pipe cleaners, with ends wrapped, in pairs and stuff them through the neck and into the body, leaving 2" to stick out of the neck. Now stuff the neck firmly. Insert the pipe cleaners into the head so that the spot where you changed colours is facing downwards and the scar is slightly diagonal. Sew neck to head.



## Ears:

The ears are worked flat and sewn along the sides to form a narrow triangle, before the dark whip stitching is added. Make 2 – 1 in each of the colours of the head. Start by chaining 16.

Row 1: starting in 2. ch from needle, 15 sc. Turn.

Row 2: sc in all sts.

Row 3: **2sctog, sc in 3 next** 3 times. 12 sts.

Row 4: sc in all sts.

Row 5: **2sctog, sc in 2 next** 3 times. 9 sts.

Row 6: sc in all sts.

Row 7: **2sctog, sc in next** 3 times. 6 sts.

Row 8: sc in all sts.

Row 9: **2sctog** 3 times. 3 sts.

Row 10: sc in all sts. Break yarn and leave 12" for sewing.

Fold the ear so the sides meet in the middle of the (now narrow) triangle and stitch together – leave yarn tail hanging. With dark brown, whip stitch many times from bottom to 2/3 up to form the darker inside of the ear. Use the beige yarn end to sew the bottom edge of the ear to the head, using the photos for reference. Sew them on so the edge is a bit curved.



## Eyes:

Make 2, using green, black and orange, starting with green:

- Round 1: 6 sts in magic ring.
- Round 2: **2 sc in next** 6 times. 12 sts.
- Round 3: **2 sc in first, sc in next** 6 times. 18 sts.
- Round 4: (displace by 2 sts) **2sctog, sc in 2 next** 6 times. 24 sts. End green.
- Round 5: with black, sc in all sts. End black.
- Round 6: with orange, sl st in all sts. End orange.



Weave all ends. Make a french knot with double black yarn to form pupil. Sew onto head with black thread in the black round and stuff lightly when you're about half way to make the eyes a bit bulgy.

## Snout:

Worked flat as a red oval and stitched on to head.

Round 1: 6 sts in magic ring.

Round 2: **2 sc, sl st in 2 next** 2 times. 8 sts.

Round 3: **2 sc in each of next 2 st, sl st in 2 next** 2 times. 12 sts.

Break yarn and weave ends.



Sew onto head using red sewing thread.

## Mouth:

With black, sew back and forth 3 times using back stitch (or preferred method) to make the mouth defined. Use photos for reference. Start at the corner of the mouth, and don't forget the line from mouth to snout!

## Tooth:

With white, ch 4 and leave 4" yarn tail. In 4th ch from needle, 2 dc. Break yarn and weave end. Sew onto head with cast-on tail just below the mouth on right side of head as shown.



## Toes and pads:

Use black yarn and wool needle. Insert needle into the bottom of the paw and out on the top side (twice) to make whip stitches defining the toes :-). Make the stitches tight and tie a knot under the paw as shown in the photo below. Repeat for all paws.



With black felt, for each paw cut 1 circle, diameter app. 1/2", and 3 tiny circles, diameter app. 1/4". Stitch them onto the paw with black sewing thread, and place the larger circle on top of the knot, you made before.



Knot under the paw



Toes



Pads

## Bow:

With white yarn, ch 45, then sc in 2. ch from needle to the end, 2 sc in last ch, continue sc all across the other side of chain. Join with sl st, break yarn and weave ends. Tie the bow around the base of the tail (not shown, I forgot to make it initially ;-)).



And he's done :-). I hope you'll love him as much as I do <3



2011, Sisse Holmstrup, *Maisha*

*This pattern may be published anywhere, as long as it's free ;-). It may be used to make stuff for resale. It may also be altered and published, as long as it's still free and there's a link to the original pattern :-)*