

Baby Dragon



Designed by Vanja Grundmann-AmigurumiBB 2014

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Materials used:

Double knit cotton yarn in color of your choice (basic color for the body, additional color(s) for wings, horns, back bone ridge)

Cotton thread No.10 or any similar weight thread in black and color color of your choice for eyes), tiny bit of white

Crochet hook 2,5 mm

Crochet hook 1,50 or 1,75 mm (for eyes)

Embroidery needle for finishing touches on eyes

Cotton darning needle for sewing the parts together

Glue and/or invisible thread for attaching the eyes

Difficulty: Intermediate

Size: finished toy measures 13 cm (5 inches) seated

Abbreviations (US terminology used):

St(s) - stitch(es)

Ch - chain stitch

Sc - single crochet

Dc - double crochet

Hdc - half double crochet

Fpsc - front post single crochet

Popcorn - Popcorn stitch (with 3 dc in each st)

Inc - increasing stitch

Dec - decreasing stitch

** - repeat what between start by number of times that follows behind (Xn)

R - round

Work in continuous rounds or spiral work unless otherwise stated.

Head

Ch6

R1 starting from the second chain from hook sc4, 3 sc in the last chain stitch, continue working around chain. Sc3, stitch 2sc in the last stitch (12 sts)

R2 inc1, sc3, inc3, sc3, inc2 (18 sts)

R3 sc1, inc1, sc4, inc1, sc1, inc1, sc1 inc1, sc4, inc1, sc1, inc1, (24 sts)

R4 sc2, inc1, sc5, inc1, sc2, inc1, sc2, inc1, sc5, inc1, sc2, inc1 (30 sts)

R5 sc3, inc1, sc6, inc1, sc3, inc1, sc3, inc1, sc6, inc1, sc3, inc1 (36 sts)

R6 sc4, inc1, sc7, inc1, sc4, inc1, sc4, inc1, sc7, inc1, sc4, inc1 (42 sts)

R7-R14 sc42

R15 sc4, inc11, sc27 (53 sts)

R16 sc14, inc1, sc38 (45 sts)

R17 sc40, ch8, skip8 sts, sc6 (46 sts, 8 ch = 54 sts)

R18 sc40, sc8 using chain stitches, sc6 (54 sts)

R19-R23 sc54

R24 *dec1, sc7* x6 (48 sts)

R25 sc48

R26 *dec1, sc6* x6 (42 sts)



R27 sc42

R28 *dec1, sc5* x6 (36 sts)

R29 *dec1, sc4* x6 (30 sts)

R30 *dec1, sc3* x6 (24 sts)

R31 *dec1, sc2* x6 (18 sts)

Stuff the head nice and firm.

R32 *dec1, sc1* x6 (12 sts)

R33 dec6 (6 sts)

Now thread the cotton darning needle and let's make some needle sculpting the face. Will be easy and simple one. We just want to make our dragon smile.

This is how your head should look like when finished and stuffed.



Needle sculpting the head

Place 4 pins on the head for easier sculpting.

Two for eyes

Two for ends of the mouth we will create.

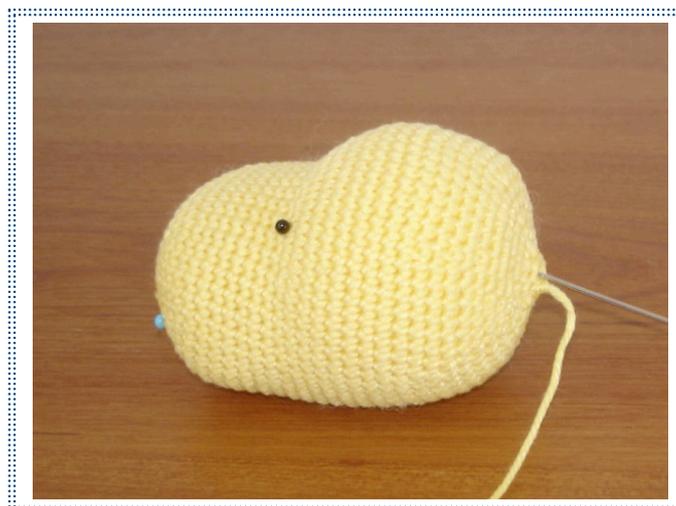
Thread the needle with same yarn used for crocheting the body. Make a knot on one side of the yarn threaded on needle so it will stick and hold our work inside the stuffing.



Start from the back of the head. Push the needle towards left eye and pin we placed.

Wrap the yarn over one stitch and push the needle towards the mouth edge or lower pin on the same face side.

Pull yarn a little so you create place where eye will come later.



We are almost done with sculpting one side of the face. Look photos below



Now wrap one stitch with the yarn where edge of the mouth will be and again push the needle on the head. This time push it towards the second eye, or next pin we placed for where eyes will be.

Once the needle is out, pull a little to sculpt the face.

Now the last one push and pull before our sculpting is done. We have to finish with the last pin or other edge of the mouth.



And one more time, wrap the yarn over one stitch (where pin for eye was placed or where eye place will be created) and push the needle through the head, towards mouth corner or last pin there is to be worked.

Pull the needle out, wrap it around one stitch here and push the needle towards the bottom head opening (for easier tying the yarn and hiding yarn later)



Now pull slightly and try to sculpt the face.

Pull the yarn few times, observe the face. Look how the sculpting is working and what tension of yarn pulled you like the best.

When completely satisfied with what you see, knot the yarn inside the stuffing, cut the yarn and hide ends.

This is how your head should look after sculpting is done.

We haven't placed the mouth yarn yet, but from the photo you can see how dragon is already smiling.

We also have nice spots to place our crocheted eyes later.



Adding yarn mouth

I added the mouth using same color yarn as I used for the body. Why I finished the dragon I colored the mouth using sharpie marker. Added just tiny bit of color. You can do the same way, coloring the mouth later, with sharpies or oil based crayons, or you can use red, or pink, or any other color of your choice and add mouth during this step.

Thread the needle again, and push it towards one side of the mouth we previously created. This is very simple! You just need to add yarn mouth in one simple wrap. Look how easy it is!



Once the needle and yarn are out, simply place the yarn over the front part of the face where you wish mouth to be. Push the needle back to the head. Observe if one layer of yarn is enough and if you like it this way. If you wish you can add one more layer, repeating what we just did one more time (but do not repeat it more than two times, otherwise your mouth will end up messy and bulky).

Once you are done, finish with pushing needle towards the bottom head opening. Tie the yarn making knots inside the stuffing, cut and hide inside the head.





Eyes (make2)

With crochet thread No.10 and steel hook of 1,50 or 1,75 mm

Start using black, for pupil

R1 *sc6 in magic ring*

R2 *inc6 (12 sts)*

Change color to one of your choice, to make iris

R3 *sl st, 2sc in next st, 2hdc in next 2 stitches, 2sc in next st, slip stitch to next and tie off*

Embroider white lines or dots on each of the eye to bring life to them. Use photo as reference.

Ears (make2)

Ch4

R1 *sc2, 3 sc in one stitch, work around chain, sc2*

R2 *ch1 turn. Sc2, 2sc in next st, 2dc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc2*

Tie off leaving long end for sewing ears on the head later

Nostril (make2)

R1 *sc6 in magic ring*

R2 *inc6 (12 sts)*

R3 *sc12*

Tie off leaving long end for sewing later.

Horns (make2)

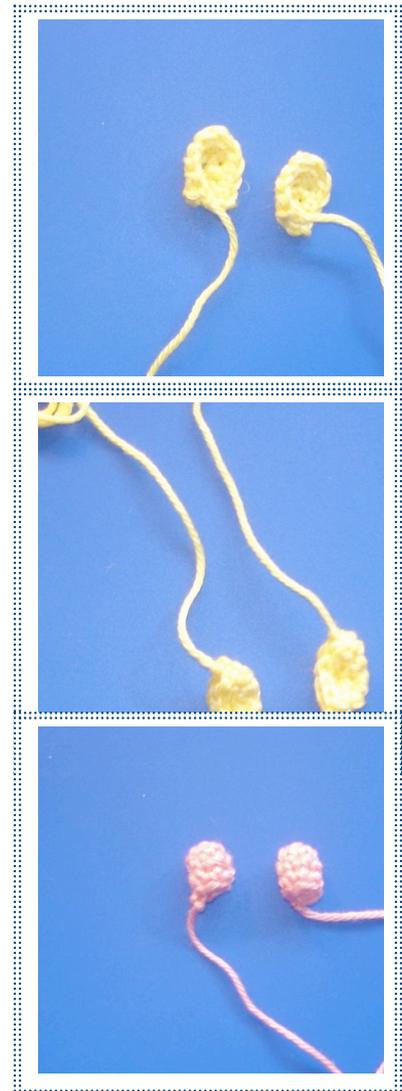
R1 *sc4 in magic ring*

R2 **inc1, sc1* x2 (6 sts)*

R3-R4 *sc6*

Tie off leaving long end for sewing later.

Stuff a little



Legs (make2)

Ch6

R1 sc4, 3sc in one st, continue working around the chain, sc3, 2sc in last st (12 sts)

R2 inc1, sc3, inc3, sc3, inc2 (18 sts)

R3 sc1, inc1, sc4, inc1, sc1, inc1, sc1, inc1, sc4, inc1, sc1, inc1 (24 sts)

R4 sc24

R5 sc3, popcorn stitch, sc1, popcorn, sc1, popcorn, sc16 (24 sts)

R6-R7 sc24

R8 *dec1, sc1* x5, sc6, dec1, sc1 (18 sts)

R9-R18 sc18

Stuff the leg nice and firm, flatten the last row and stitch through both sides making 8 sc across. Tie off and leave long end for sewing later.



Arms (make2)

Ch6

R1 sc4 starting from second chain from hook, 3 sc in one st, continue working around chain, sc3, 2sc in one st (12)

R2 inc1, sc3, inc3, sc3, inc2 (18 sts)

R3 sc18

R4 sc1, popcorn, sc1, popcorn, sc1, popcorn, sc12

R5-R9 sc12

R10 fp8, sc4 (12 sts)

R11-R20 sc12

Stuff the arm nice and firm, Flatten last row and stitch through both sides with 5sc (use photo as guide)

Tie off leaving long end for sewing later.



Tail

R1 sc6 in magic ring (6 sts)

R2 *inc1, sc2* x2 (8 sts)

R3 sc8

R4 *inc1, sc3* x2 (10 sts)

R5 sc10

R6 *inc1, sc4* x2 (12 sts)

R7 sc12

R8 *inc1, sc5* x2 (14 sts)

R9 sc14

R10 *inc1, sc6* x2 (16 sts)

R11 sc16

R12 *inc1, sc7* x2 (18 sts)

R13 sc18

R14 *inc1, sc8* x2 (20 sts)

R15 sc20

R16 *inc1, sc9* x2 (22 sts)

R17 sc22

R18 *inc1, sc10* x2 (24 sts)

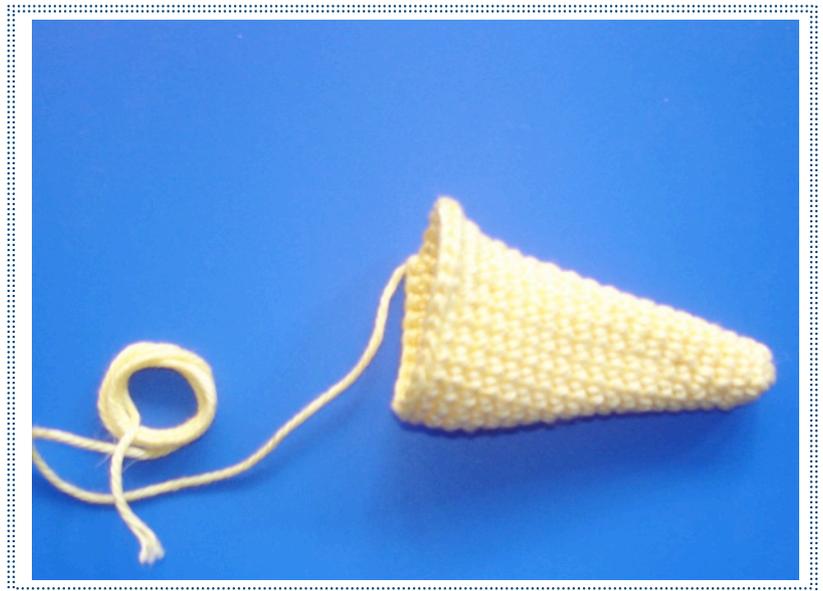
R19 sc24

R20 inc6, sc18 sts (30 sts)

R21 sc30

Tie off leaving long end for sewing tail to the body later.

Stuff the tail before attaching and sewing.



Body

Slip stitch to one of the side stitches on the head opening (look at the photo)

R1 sc18 (18 sts)

R2-R3 sc18

R4 *inc1, sc2* x6 (24 sts)

R5 sc24

R6 *inc1, sc3* x6 (30 sts)

R7 sc30

R8 *inc1, sc4* x6 (36 sts)

R9 sc36

R10 *inc1, sc5* x6 (42 sts)

R11 sc42

R12 *inc1, sc6* x6 (48 sts)

R13-R22 sc48

R23 *dec1, sc6* x6 (42 sts)

R24 *dec1, sc5* x6 (36 sts)



R25 *dec1, sc4* x6 (30 sts)

R26 *dec1, sc3* x6 (24 sts)

R27 *dec1, sc2* x6 (18 sts)

Stuff the body nice and firm

R28 *dec1, sc1* x6 (12 sts)

Add some more stuffing if needed.

R29 dec6 (6 sts)

Tie off leaving long end for sewing

Close the last round nicely and hide the yarn inside the body.

Wings (make2)

R1 sc6 in magic ring

R2 *inc1, sc2* x2 (8 sts)

R3 inc1, sc7 (9 sts)

R4 inc1, sc8 (10 sts)

R5 inc2, sc8 (12 sts)

R6 inc2, sc10 (14 sts)

R7 inc2, sc12 (16 sts)

R8 inc2, sc14 (18 sts)

R9 inc2, sc16 (20 sts)

R10 inc2, sc18 (22 sts)

R11 inc2, sc20 (24 sts)

R12-R14 sc24

R15 *dec1, sc2* x6 (18 sts)

R16 stc18

R17 *dec1, sc1* x6 (12 sts)

R18 flatten the working piece so it takes shape of a wing. Add stitch or two to reach the edge and stitch through both side stitches with 5sc.

Tie off leaving long end for sewing the wing to the body later.



Belly Applique

Ch10

R1 sc8. 3sc in one st, continue working around the chain, sc7, 2sc in one st (20 sts)

R2 inc1, sc7, inc3, sc7, inc2 (26 sts)

R3 sc1, inc1, sc8, inc1, sc1, inc1, sc1, inc1, sc7, inc1, sc1, inc1 (32 sts)

R4 sc2, in1, sc9, inc1, sc2, inc1, sc2, inc1, sc9, inc1, sc2, inc1 (38 sts)

Tie off leaving long end for sewing

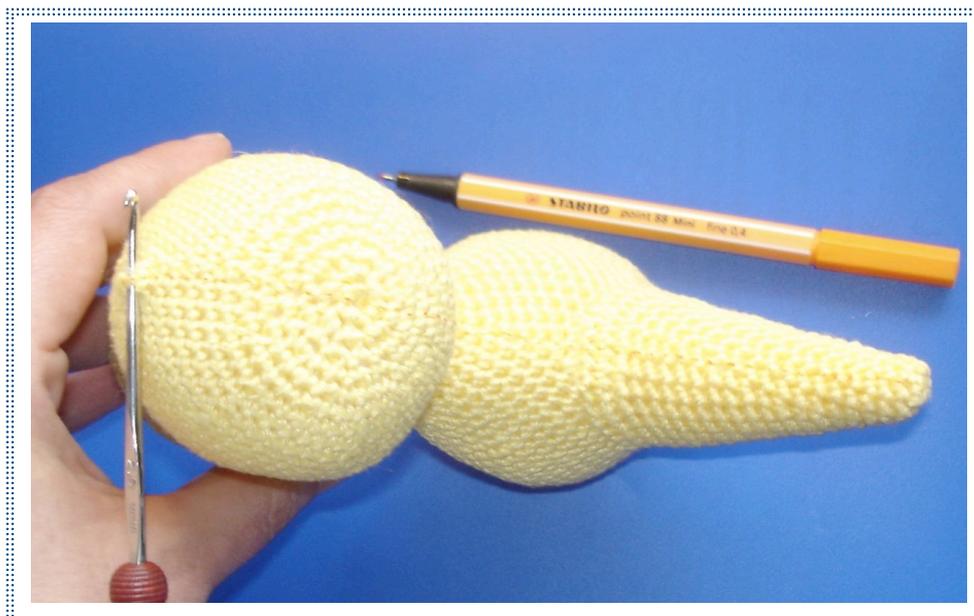
Back bone ridge

Before creating back bone ridge tail to the body has to be added and sewed. Place the tail (looking from the bottom of the body) right after 5th round. The tail has to be centered in the back. Stuff it very well and very firm, pin it all the way and sew around.



Here is our dragon, ready to get the ridge on his back. In this tutorial I will show you one way, crocheting directly on the body, on how to make back bone ridge. For those that find this way difficult, you can simply make it separate, by making chain, long enough to fit the top of the head, over the body and finishing at the end of dragons tail. 55 chains is what you will have to start with (but depending on your crochet work, you might want to check it before continuing with the next row. Simply place it on the dragon and measure the length and how it fits). Once you have the chain ready, follow the pattern described below.

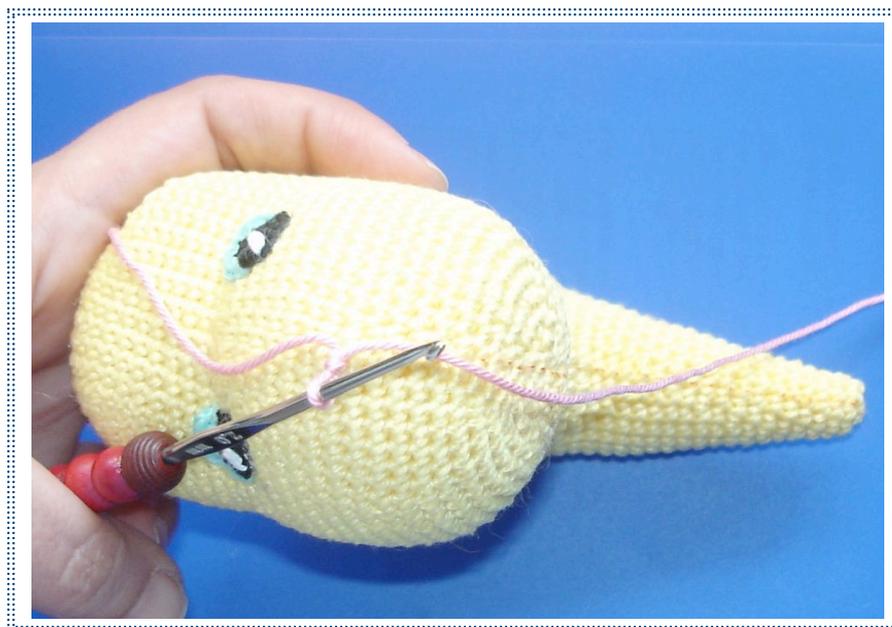
Now let me show you how I made it, crocheting it directly on the body.



To make it as easier possible, as we have to crochet creating straight line over the head, back and tail area, I used sharpie in the light color, matching the color of the yarn I used (so it doesn't show and can't be seen later) and simply draw the line I will crochet over.

You have to look closely to the photo to see that line, but it is there.

Now slip stitch on the first stitch marked on top of the head, and let us start. I have to tell you, this is not piece of cake. Body is stuffed very firm, and stitching through stitches like this can be frustrating. There are lots of maneuvers with hook and hands, and yarns.... Take a deep breath and get prepared it won't be so easy to make.



Using your line as a guide stitch through all stitches marked. From top of the head to the end of the tail. You should finish with approximately 55 stitches across. Don't worry if you have them less or more. It depends on how you stitches through this guide line and stitches used on the body. So no panic! 😊

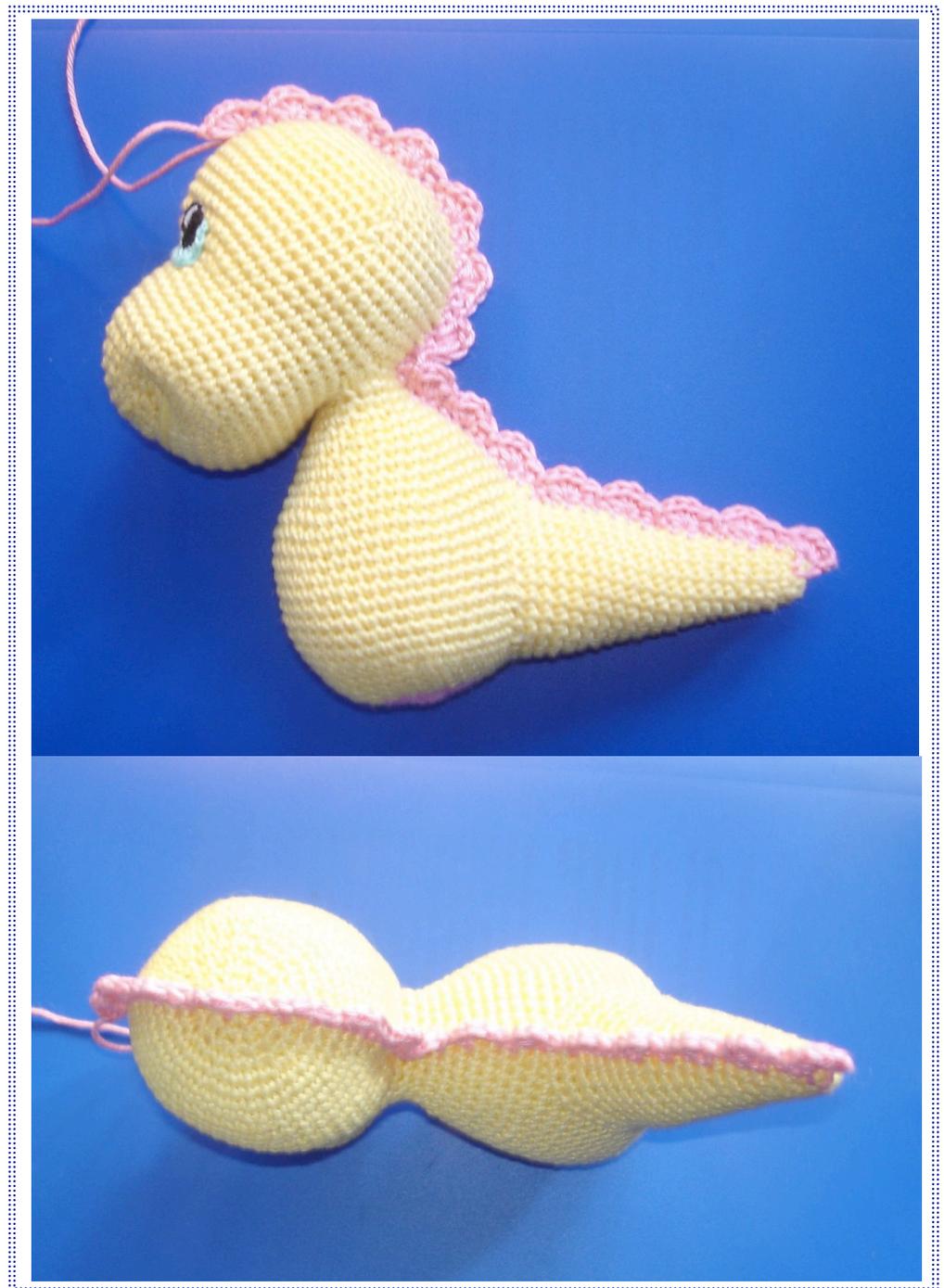
As you finished the last stitch, chain2 and stitch 4dc in the 3st from hook *skip one st, sl st to next st, skip one st, 4 dc in next st* repeat this pattern across Around the neck area, slip stitch several stitches, 3-4, simply to make it easier to continue work and not to make shells overlapping each other.

Reaching the last stitch on the head, finish with 5dc and tie off hiding the thread inside the head.

Little piece of advice:

I have worked with pink colored both rows when crocheting back bone ridge. I suggest you use the same color yarn you used for the body., when crocheting the first row, change the color before starting second row. This way, even if you make little mistake crocheting the first row directly through stitches on head, body, tail, they will not be so visible and your work will look perfect.

Here are two photos showing how the back bone ridge looks when finished.



Assembling the parts together

By now we have sewed the tail and added the back bone ridge.

Turn your dragon upside down, and observe where tail is added. We said to place it right after 5th round.

Do the same with placing the legs. Place them tight after 5th round. I have left 5 stitches between them but you try different ways to see which one suits you the best. Important is, when legs are placed, together with tail they make dragon easy to sit. So keep that in mind when adding legs.

Arms place on side of the body, right below the head (or using R3 of the body to place them).

Wings-sew them on the back, one on each side of the back bone ridge, right below the back of the head.

Belly appliqué, place it on the belly and simply sew on.

Head features - use these two photos as your guide



The only thing I would like to add is when placing the eyes on. I like to use glue when attaching the eyes. If eye is big, I like to sew it around using invisible thread. This is just the way I like my eyes to be.

I also like to use very thin black marker to outline the eye to give them cartoon look.

Advice:

Never use yarn when attaching the eyes. They will end up bulky and not nice. If you dislike the idea of using glue or invisible thread (or don't have them at home) simply take and use thread in matching color of your eyes. This way you will get the seamless edge and your eyes will look nice.

Little by little we have reached the end. By now your Baby Dragon should be flying around your room, or hiding in the closet if you made a shy one

I hope you have enjoyed your time crocheting your very own Baby Dragon and this pattern.

For any help you might need, please feel free to write and ask.

*Hugs
Vanja*

