

Pine Cones

Materials and equipment:

Crochet hook size 2.00mm (US B-1, UK 14)
Gold metallic yarn – 1 ball
Holly berry embellishment
0.5m (20in) of narrow gold ribbon
Toy stuffing
Craft glue
Sewing needle and gold thread (optional)

Measurements:

The pine cone is approximately 5cm (2in) high.

Special abbreviations:

3dc (*UKtr*) cluster – draw up loop, yrh, hook into space, draw up loop, repeat 3 times, yrh, draw through all loops, 1 ch to secure.

4dc (*UKtr*) cluster – as above but repeat 4 times.

Instructions:

Using gold metallic yarn, make 6 ch then join with sl st into a ring.

Round 1: work 12 sc (*UKdc*) into the ring then join with a sl st.

Round 2: work a 3dc (*UKtr*) cluster into each sc (*UKdc*), join with a sl st to top of first 3dc (*UKtr*) cluster [12 3dc (*UKtr*) clusters].

Round 3: sl st into first space between clusters, work 3dc (*UKtr*) cluster, 1 ch into each space, join with a sl st to top of first 3dc (*UKtr*) cluster.

Round 4: sl st into next 2 ch sp, work *4dc (*UKtr*) cluster, 1 ch* into each 2 ch sp, join with a sl st to top of first 4dc (*UKtr*) cluster.

Round 5: repeat round 4.

Round 6: sl st into next 2 ch sp, *3dc (*UKtr*) cluster, 1 sc (*UKdc*)* into each 2 ch sp, join with a sl st to top of 3dc (*UKtr*) cluster.

Round 7: sl st into next 2 ch sp, work a 3dc (*UKtr*) cluster into the 1 ch at the top of each 3dc (*UKtr*) cluster of the previous round, but omit the 1 ch to secure, join as previous round.

To make up

Carefully push tiny pieces of stuffing inside the pine cone using the crochet hook to help you. Do not overstuff – just get a pleasing shape.

Using a small amount of craft glue, attach the holly berry embellishment to the top of the pine cone. Thread ribbon through the last row of clusters. Decide how long you want the ribbon loop to be and trim the ribbon as necessary. Either tie the ends of the ribbon together in a knot or stitch them to form a loop.



Glimmering Snowflake

Materials and equipment:

Crochet hook size 2.00mm (US B-1, UK 14)
No. 5 crochet cotton – 1 ball of white (this is sufficient for several snowflakes)
8 pearl beads
1 large pearlised snowflake button
0.5m (20in) of narrow white ribbon
Sewing needle and white thread

Measurements:

The snowflake is approximately 9cm (3½in) in diameter.



Instructions (make 2):

Using white crochet cotton, make 8 ch then join with sl st into a ring.

Round 1: 7 ch to count as 1 dtr (*UKtrtr*) and 2 ch, * 1 dtr (*UKtrtr*) 2 ch into the ring, * repeat from * to * 14 times more, 2 ch, then join with a sl st into 5th ch of starting ch [sixteen 2ch sp].

Round 2: 2 ch, 2 sc (*UKdc*) into first 2ch sp, * 3 sc (*UKdc*) into next 2ch sp, * repeat all around and join with a sl st to beg [48 sts].

Round 3: 8 ch, for first sc (*UKdc*) and 7 ch loop, 1 sc (*UKdc*) into 3rd sc (*UKdc*), * 5 ch, miss 2 sc (*UKdc*), 1 sc (*UKdc*) into next sc (*UKdc*), 7 ch, miss 2 sc (*UKdc*), 1 sc (*UKdc*) into next sc (*UKdc*), * repeat from * to * all around, ending last repeat 5 ch, join with sl st to beg.

Round 4: sl st into first 7 ch loop, into loop work 3 ch, 4 dc (*UKtr*), 4 ch, sl st into 3rd ch from hook (1 picot made), 1 ch, 5 dc (*UKtr*) into loop, * 1 sc (*UKdc*) into next 5 ch loop, [5 dc (*UKtr*), 4 ch, sl st into 3rd ch from hook (1 picot made), 5 dc (*UKtr*)] all into next 7 ch loop, * repeat from * to * all around, join with a sl st to beg. Fasten off.

To make up

Place the two snowflakes back to back and sew them together neatly, matching the points as you do so. Sew the large snowflake button to the centre of the snowflake and then sew a small pearl to the centre of each point, using the photograph as a guide.

Thread the ribbon through the top of one point to make a hanging loop. Decide how long you want the ribbon loop to be and trim the ribbon as necessary. Either tie the ends of the ribbon together in a knot or stitch them to form a loop.

Tip

You can spray starch on to the snowflake before attaching the button and beads to give it a firmer texture.

Baby Penguin

Materials and equipment:

Crochet hook size 2.00mm (US B-1, UK 14)

No. 3 crochet cotton – 1 ball of white and 1 ball of black

Small amounts of yellow, blue and silver metallic yarn

Sewing needle and threads to match the yarn

Small amount of stuffing

Measurements:

The penguin is approximately 8.5cm (3in) tall, including his hat.

Instructions:

Using white crochet cotton, make 2 ch, work 6 sc (UKdc) into 2nd ch from hook then join with sl st into a ring.

Round 1: work 2 sc (UKdc) into each sc (UKdc) to end then join with a sl st.

Round 2: *1 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc), 2 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * all around then join with a sl st as before.

Round 3: *1 sc (UKdc) into each of next 2 sc (UKdc), 2 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * all around then join with a sl st as before.

Round 4: *1 sc (UKdc) into each of next 3 sc (UKdc), 2 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * all around then join with a sl st as before.

Round 5: 1 sc (UKdc) into each of next 4 sc (UKdc), 2 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * all around then join with a sl st as before.

Work 4 rounds in sc (UKdc) with no increase.

Change to black and work 4 rounds of sc (UKdc).

Now shape the top, stuffing the penguin as you go.

Next round: *1 sc (UKdc) into each of next 4 sc (UKdc), sc (UKdc) 2 tog,* repeat from * to * all around then join with a sl st as before.

Next round: *1 sc (UKdc) into each of next 3 sc (UKdc), sc (UKdc) 2 tog,* repeat from * to * all around then join with a sl st as before.

Next round: *1 sc (UKdc) into each of next 2 sc (UKdc), sc (UKdc) 2 tog,* repeat from * to * all around then join with a sl st as before.

Next round: *1 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc), sc (UKdc) 2 tog,* repeat from * to * all around then join with a sl st as before.

Next round: sc (UKdc) 2 tog all around. Fasten off and run thread through the last row of sts; draw up and fasten off.

Feet (make 2)

Using yellow, make 7 ch.

Row 1: 1 sc (UKdc) into 2nd ch from hook, 1 sc (UKdc) into each ch to end, turn [6 sts].

Row 2: 1 ch, work 1 sc (UKdc) into each sc (UKdc) to end, turn.

Row 3: 1 ch, sc (UKdc) 2 tog, work to last 2 sts, sc (UKdc) 2 tog.

Row 4: work as row 3.

Rows 5–6: work in sc (UKdc) on these 2 sts.

Row 7: 1 ch, work 2 sc (UKdc) into first and last st.

Row 8: work as row 7.

Work 2 rows in sc (UKdc) on these 6 sts then fasten off.



Beak

Using yellow, make 7 ch.

Row 1: 1 sc (UKdc) into 2nd ch from hook, 1 sc (UKdc) into each ch to end, turn [6 sts].

Row 2: 1 ch, sc (UKdc) 2 tog, work to last 2 sts, sc (UKdc) 2 tog.

Row 3: work as row 2.

Rows 4–5: work in sc (UKdc) on these 2 sts.

Rows 6: 1 ch, 2 sc (UKdc) into first and last st.

Row 7: work as row 6.

Work 1 row in sc (UKdc) on these 6 sts then fasten off.

Wings (make 2)

Using black, make 2 ch.

Row 1: 2 sc (UKdc) into 2nd ch from hook, turn.

Row 2: 2 sc (UKdc) into first sc (UKdc), 1 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc), turn.

Row 3: 2 sc (UKdc) into first sc (UKdc), 1 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc), 2 sc (UKdc) into last sc (UKdc).

Rows 4–7: work sc (UKdc) on these 5 sts.

Rows 8–9: work in sc (UKdc), decreasing 1 sc (UKdc) at each end of row. Fasten off.

Eyes (make 2)

Using white, make 2 ch, work 6 sc (UKdc) into 2nd ch from hook then join with a sl st into a ring.

Round 1: 1 ch, work 2 sc (UKdc) into each sc (UKdc) all around, join with a sl st.

Round 2: 1 ch, *1 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc), 2 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * all around, join with a sl st to beg of round. Fasten off.

Pupils (make 2)

Using black, make 2 ch. Work 6 sc (UKdc) into 2nd ch from hook then join with sl st into a circle.

Hat

Using blue, make 21 ch loosely.

Row 1: work 1 dc (UKtr) into 3rd ch from hook, 1 dc (UKtr) into each ch to end, turn.

Row 2: 3 ch [counts as 1 dc (UKtr)], 1 dc (UKtr) into each dc (UKtr) to end, turn.

Rows 3–5: 3 ch [counts as 1st dc (UKtr)], dc (UKtr) 2 tog to last st, 1 dc (UKtr) in last st.

Fasten off.

Join silver metallic yarn to start of hat and work 1 row of sc (UKdc) all along the starting ch edge, fasten off.

Hat bobble

Using silver metallic yarn, make 3 ch. Work 12 dc (UKtr) into 3rd ch from hook, join with a sl st. Fasten off. Run thread through row of dc (UKtr) and draw up tightly into a little ball. Fasten off.

To make up

Work in all ends. Fold each foot in half and sew up the sides – the wide end is the front of the foot. Sew the feet to the base of the body, angling them outwards slightly. Sew a pupil to each eye then work a French knot in white in the centre of each eye. Place the eyes on the body, using the photograph as a guide, and sew in place. Fold the beak in half and sew the sides. Add a little stuffing to pad slightly. Sew the wide end of the beak to the head. Sew a wing to each side of the body. Sew the side seam of the hat and turn back a brim. Sew the bobble to the top. Pop a little stuffing in the hat then stitch it on to the penguin's head.



Round 2: *1 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc), 2 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * all around, join with a sl st as before.
 Round 3: *1 sc (UKdc) into next 2 sc (UKdc), 2 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * all around, join with a sl st as before. Fasten off.

Ear (make 1)

Using the 2.00mm (US B-1, UK 14) hook and mid brown yarn make 2 ch. Work 6 sc (UKdc) into 2nd ch from hook then join with a sl st into a circle.

Round 1: work 2 sc (UKdc) into each sc (UKdc) to end, join with a sl st.

Round 2: work 1 sc (UKdc) into each sc (UKdc) to end. Fasten off.

Hat

Using the 2.00mm (US B-1, UK 14) hook and red yarn make 32 ch.

Row 1: 1 hdc (UKhtr) into 3rd ch from hook, 1 hdc (UKhtr) into each ch to end, turn.

Row 2: 1 ch, 1 sc (UKdc) into each hdc (UKhtr) to end, turn.

Row 3: 2 ch [counts as first hdc (UKhtr)], 1 hdc (UKhtr) into each sc (UKdc) to end.

Row 4: repeat row 2.

Row 5: 2 ch [counts as first hdc (UKhtr)], 1 hdc (UKhtr) into each of next 2 sc (UKdc),* hdc (UKhtr) 2 tog, 1 hdc (UKhtr) into each of next 3 sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * ending last repeat with hdc (UKhtr) 2 tog into each of last 2 sc (UKdc). Turn.

Row 6: 1 ch, 1 sc (UKdc) into each sc (UKdc) to end.

Row 7: 2 ch [counts as first hdc (UKhtr)], *hdc (UKhtr) 2 tog, 1 hdc (UKhtr) into next sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * ending last repeat with hdc (UKhtr) 2 tog, hdc (UKhtr) into each of last 2 sc (UKdc). Turn.

Row 8: repeat row 6.

Row 9: 2 ch [counts as first hdc (UKhtr)], *hdc (UKhtr) 2 tog,* repeat from * to * to last st, hdc (UKhtr) into last sc (UKdc).

Rows 10–15: work in hdc (UKhtr).

Row 16: hdc (UKhtr) 2 tog to end of row.

Fasten off.

Using the 4.00mm (US G-6, UK 8) hook and eyelash yarn, make a chain long enough to wrap around the brim of the hat twice, fasten off.

Holly leaf (make 2)

Using the 2.00mm (US B-1, UK 14) hook and green yarn, make 5 ch, 1 sc (UKdc) into 2nd ch from hook, 2 ch, *sl st into top of sc (UKdc) just worked, 1 sc (UKdc) into next ch, 2 ch, sl st into top of sc (UKdc) just worked,* repeat from * to * once more. Fasten off.

Sew the leaves together as a pair. Sew a tiny red bead on to one end of the leaf to depict a berry.

To make up

Sew in any loose ends. Sew the hat seam and attach the bell to the point at the top. Wrap the eyelash chain twice around the brim of the hat to make a fluffy border and stitch it in place. Attach the holly leaf to one side of the hat.

Sew the muzzle on to the front of the head, stuffing it lightly to give it shape. Using dark brown, embroider the nose, mouth, eyes and eyebrows. Sew the ear in position. Only one ear is used because the hat sits on the other side of the head. Sew the hat to the head.

Thread the ribbon through the hat to make a hanging loop. Decide how long you want the ribbon loop to be and trim the ribbon as necessary. Either tie the ends of the ribbon together in a knot or stitch them to form a loop.



Poinsettia Gift Topper

Materials and equipment:

Crochet hook size 2.00mm (US B-1, UK 14)

Metallic yarn – 1 ball each of red, green and gold

90cm (35½in) of red gold-edged satin ribbon, 2.5cm (1in) wide

Gold flower bead stamens

Fine florist's wire or rose wire

Sewing needle and red thread

Measurements:

Each flower is approximately 6cm (2½in) in diameter.

Instructions:

Flower 1 (6 petals)

Using red yarn, make 6 ch then join with sl st into a ring.

Round 1: 1 ch, work 12 sc (UKdc) into the ring, join with a sl st to first ch.

Round 2: *5 ch, miss 1 sc (UKdc), 1 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * all around, join to 1st of 5 ch at beg of round [six 5 ch loops].

Round 3: sl st into first 5 ch loop, 2 ch, work 5 dc (UKtr) into same loop, 1 sc (UKdc) in next sc (UKdc), *6 dc (UKtr) into 5 ch loop, 1 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * 4 times more, join with a sl st to beg of round.

Round 4: sl st to 2nd dc (UKtr), 2 ch, 1 dc (UKtr) into same dc (UKtr), 2 dc (UKtr) into each of next 3 dc (UKtr), 1 sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc),* miss next dc (UKtr), 2 dc (UKtr) into each of next 4 dc (UKtr), miss 1 dc (UKtr), 1 sc (UKdc) into sc (UKdc),* repeat from * to * 4 times more and then join with a sl st to beg of round. Break off red.

Round 5: join in gold to same place as sl st and work *1 sc (UKdc) into each of the next 4 dc (UKtr), 3 ch, sl st into 1st of the these ch (1 picot formed), 1 sc (UKdc) into each of the next 4 dc (UKtr), 1 sc (UKdc) into corresponding sc (UKdc) of row 3, thus pulling up a long loop,* repeat from * to * 5 times more, join with a sl st to beg of round. Fasten off.

Flower 2 (8 petals)

Using red yarn, make 8 ch then join with a sl st into a ring.

Round 1: 1 ch, work 16 sc (UKdc) into the ring, join with a sl st to first ch.

Round 2: 1 ch, sc (UKdc) into same st as join, *1 ch, miss next sc (UKdc), sc (UKdc) into next sc (UKdc), 8 ch, sc (UKdc) into same st,* repeat from * to * 6 times more, 1 ch, miss 1 sc (UKdc), sc (UKdc) into same st as first sc (UKdc), (4 ch, tr (UKdtr) into same st [8 loops made].

Round 3: 3 ch to count as first dc (UKtr), work 7 more dc (UKtr) into same loop (working around the 4 ch of round 2), 1 sc (UKdc) into next 1 ch sp, *15 dc (UKtr) into next 8 ch loop, 1 sc (UKdc) in next 1 ch sp,* repeat from * to * 6 more times, 7 dc (UKtr) into the first loop, join with a sl st to the top of beg 3 ch [8 petals made]. Break off red.

Round 4: join in gold with a sl st to beg of previous round, work 1 sc (UKdc) into each dc (UKtr) all around each petal, join with a sl st to beg of round. Fasten off.

