



CROCHET
SKILL LEVEL
INTERMEDIATE



I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas

If you love the song, you'll want to crochet a hippo for a special kid in your life (or maybe for yourself). This huggable hippo has a removable hat and a wonderful personality.

SHOP KIT

Designed by Nancy Anderson

What you will need:

RED HEART® Super Saver®: 1 skein in each of 512 Turqua **A**, 316 Soft White **B**, 319 Cherry Red **C**, and 706 Perfect Pink **D**

Susan Bates® Crochet Hook: 3.5mm [US E-4], 3.75mm [US F-5], and 4mm [US G-6]

Susan Bates® split lock stitch markers

Susan Bates® Easy Pom Pon Maker, 1¾" (4.5 cm) diameter

Yarn needle, tapestry needle, 1 pair 8mm post-and-washer safety eyes, plush stuffing, flexible drinking straw for candy cane insert

GAUGE: 22 sc = 4" (10 cm); 20 sc rows = 4" (10 cm) using F hook. **CHECK YOUR GAUGE.** Use any size needles to obtain the gauge.



RED HEART® Super Saver®, Art. E300 available in solid color 7 oz (198 g), 364 yds (333 m); stripes, prints, multis and heathers 5 oz (141 g), 236 yds (215 m); flecks 5 oz (141 g), 260 yds (238 m) skeins

Hippo is 11½" (29 cm) tall.

NOTES

1. This huggable hippo with removable hat is made of individual parts that are worked in the round and then sewn together.
2. Mark first stitch of first round for each piece, then move marker up as rounds are completed.
3. To change color, work last stitch of old color to last yarn over. Yarn over with new color and draw through all loops on hook to complete stitch. Proceed with new color.
4. Only a small scrap of color **D** will be used. Any scrap of a similarly colored yarn would work just as well.

SPECIAL TECHNIQUE

Magic ring: Wrap yarn around your left middle finger twice, leaving a 6" (15 cm) tail. Insert hook under both strands, and pull up a loop. Ch 1, and begin working directly into center of ring. This ring can be tightened later by pulling on the yarn tail.

SPECIAL STITCH

St2tog = Stitch 2 together: This is similar to a sc2tog (single crochet 2 together), but with a small difference that makes it nearly invisible. Insert hook through front loop of 1st st, then 2nd st to be decreased without performing a yarn-over in between, then yarn over and pull up a loop through both front-loops. Yarn over and draw remaining 2 loops on hook.

ARMS (make 2)

With **B**, create a magic ring.

Round 1: With size F hook, ch 1, 6 sc in ring, join with slip st in first sc.

Round 2: Ch 1, 2 sc in each sc around, join with slip st in first sc – 12 sc.

Fasten off.

Join **A** with slip st in back loop of any sc.

From this point, work in unjoined rounds as follows:

Round 3: Ch 1, sc in back loop of same sc and of each sc around.

Rounds 4-9: Sc in each sc around.

Round 10: [Sc in each of next 4 sc, st2tog over next 2 sc] twice – 10 sc.

Round 11-16: Sc in each sc around.

Stuff bottom ⅓ of Arm.

Hold top of Arm closed and seam by working sc in each of next 5 sc and going through both layers of fabric.

Fasten off.

BODY

With **A**, create a magic ring, and work in unjoined rounds as follows:

Round 1: With size F hook, ch 1, 6 sc in ring.

Round 2: 2 sc in each sc around – 12 sc.

Round 3: * Sc in next sc, 2 sc in next sc; repeat from * around – 18 sts.

Round 4: * Sc in each of next 2 sc, 2 sc in next sc; repeat from * around – 24 sts.

Round 5: * Sc in each of next 3 sc, 2 sc in next sc; repeat from * around – 30 sts.

Round 6: * Sc in each of next 4 sc, 2 sc in next sc; repeat from * around – 36 sts.

Round 7: * Sc in each of next 5 sc, 2 sc in next sc; repeat from * around – 42 sts.

Rounds 8-18: Sc in each sc around.

Round 19: * Sc in each of next 5 sc, st2tog over next 2 sc; repeat from * around – 36 sts.

Round 20: Sc in each sc around.

Round 21: * Sc in each of next 4 sc, st2tog over next 2 sc; repeat from * around – 30 sts.

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Round 22: Sc in each sc around.
Round 23: * Sc in each of next 3 sc, st2tog over next 2 sc; repeat from * around - 24 sts.
Round 24 (arm joining round): Holding first Arm against topmost round, join by working sc in each of next 5 sc and going through both layers of fabric, sc in each of next 8 sc on Body, join second Arm same as first Arm, sc in each of last 6 sc on Body.
Round 25: Sc in each sc around.
Round 26: * Sc in each of next 2 sc, st2tog over next 2 sc; repeat from * around - 18 sts.
Round 27: Sc in each sc around.
Round 28: Sc in each of next 2 sts, hdc in the next 9 sts, sc in each of last 7 sts. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing head to neck. Stuff piece firmly and set aside.

HEAD

Note: Head is worked from the snout upwards, using **A** and size **F** hook, ch 4.
Round 1: 2 sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each of next 2 ch, rotate piece 180 degrees, working in unused loops at opposite side of foundation ch work 2 sc in each of next 3 ch, join with slip st in first sc - 12 sc.
 From this point, work in unjoined rounds as follows:
Round 2: * Sc in next sc, 2 sc in next sc; repeat from * around - 18 sts.
Round 3: * Sc in each of next 2 sc, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around - 24 sts.
Round 4: * Sc in each of next 3 sc, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around - 30 sts.
Round 5: * Sc in each of next 4 sc, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * around - 36 sts.
Round 6-10: Sc in each sc around.

Round 11: * Sc in each of next 4 sc, st2tog over next 2 sc; repeat from * around - 30 sc.
Round 12: Sc in each sc around.
Round 13: * Sc in each of next 4 sc, 2 sc in next sc; repeat from * around - 36 sc.
Round 14: * 2 sc in next st, sc in each of next 17 sc; repeat from * once more - 38 sts.
Round 15-19: Sc in each sc around.
Round 20: * St2tog over next 2 sc, sc in each of next 17 sc; repeat from * once more - 36 sc.
Round 21: * Sc in each of next 4 sc, st2tog over next 2 sc; repeat from * around - 30 sc.

Place eyes on or near Round 15, spaced about 7 sts apart, making certain they are parallel to the straight snout seam created by Round 1. Stuff piece firmly. Continue stuffing as further rounds are completed.

Round 22: * Sc in each of next 3 sts, st2tog over next 2 sc; repeat from * around - 24 sts.
Round 23: * Sc in each of next 2 sts, st2tog over next 2 sc; repeat from * around - 18 sts.
Rounds 24 and 25: * Sc in next sc, st2tog over next 2 sc; repeat from * around - 8 sts.
 Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Finish stuffing top of piece. Weave yarn tail through sts of final round and pull tight to close hole.

EARS (make 2)

With **A**, create a magic ring, and work in unjoined rounds as follows:
Round 1: With size **F** hook, ch 1, 6 sc in ring.

Round 2: 2 sc in each sc around - 12 sc. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing to head.

LEGS (make 2)

With **B**, create a magic ring.
Round 1: With size **F** hook, 6 sc in ring, join with slip st in first sc.
Round 2: Ch 1, 2 sc in each sc around - 12 sc.
Round 3: * Sc in each of next 3 sc, 2 sc in next sc; repeat from * around, join with slip st in first sc - 15 sc.
 Fasten off **B**.
 Join **A** with slip st in back loop of any sc. From this point, work in unjoined rounds as follows:
Round 4: Ch 1, sc in back loop of same sc and of each sc around.
Round 5-7: Sc in each sc around.
Round 8: St2tog over next 2 sc, sc in each of next 13 sc - 14 sc.
Round 9: Sc in each sc around.
Round 10: St2tog over next 2 sc, sc in each of next 12 sc - 13 sc.
Round 11-18: Sc in each sc around. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing to body. Stuff piece firmly and set aside.

HAT Band

Using **B** and size **G** hook, ch 4.
Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch to end - 3 sc.
Row 2-28: Ch 1, sc in back loop of each sc across.

Hold short edges of Band together and seam by working slip st in back loop of each of next 3 sc and going through both layers of fabric. Do not fasten off.

Crown

Round 1: Working in edge sts of Band, ch 1, sc in same st and in each of next 27 edge sts, join with slip st in first sc - 28 sc.
 Fasten off.
 Join **C** with slip st in back loop of any sc.
Round 2 (ear hole round): Ch 1, sc in back loop of same sc, [sc in back loop of each of next 6 sc, ch 3, skip 3 sc] twice, sc in back loop of each of last 9 sts, join with slip st in first sc. From this point, work in unjoined rounds as follows:
Round 3: Ch 1, sc in same sc and in each st around including ch sts - 28 sc.
Round 4: * St2tog over next 2 sc, sc in each of next 5 sc; repeat from * around - 24 sc.
Round 5: * St2tog over next 2 sc, sc in each of next 4 sc; repeat from * around - 20 sc.
Round 6: * St2tog over next 2 sc, sc in each of next 3 sc; repeat from * around - 16 sc.
Round 7: * St2tog over next 2 sc, sc in each of next 6 sc; repeat from * once more - 14 sc.
Round 8: * St2tog over next 2 sc, sc in each of next 12 sc - 13 sts.
Rounds 9-17: * St2tog over next 2 sc, sc in each sc to end - 4 sc.
 Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Weave yarn tail through sts of final round and pull tight to close hole.

Pompom

With **B**, make a pompom and sew to tip of Hat.

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HEART

With **C** and size **E** hook, ch 2.

Round 1: Skip 1 ch, working over yarn tail, work (2 dc, 2 hdc, 1 dc, 2 hdc, 2 dc, slip st) in 2nd ch from hook.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing to Body.

Pull beginning yarn tail tight to close hole.

CANDY CANE

With **B**, create a magic ring, and work in unjoined rounds as follows:

Round 1: With size F hook, ch 1, 6 sc in ring.

Round 2: Sc in each sc around.

[Change to **C** and work 2 rounds evenly in sc, change to **B** and work 2 rounds evenly in sc] twice.

Change to **C**.

Next 2 rounds: Sc in each of next 2 sc, hdc in each of next next 2 sc, sc in each of last 2 sc.

Change to **B**.

Work 6 more rounds evenly in sc, keeping with striping pattern (2 rounds per color).

Fasten off, leaving a long tail of **B**.

Cut length of straw so that the bendable portion fits inside the bend created by hdc sts. Insert straw and trim excess.

Weave yarn tail through sts of final round and pull tight to close hole.

FINISHING

Using yarn end from neck area of body, (round 28) and a tapestry needle, begin sewing at the back of the head on the underside at Round 13. Note: May need to adjust head due to the elongated shape of head. Knot securely and fasten off, trimming yarn end.

Sew Legs to bottom of Body with their tops just touching, making certain that the color change jogs face backwards. Sew heart to upper midsection of Body. Sew Candy Cane to end of Arm using yarn scarp.

With **D** and yarn needle, embroider an X for each nostril, spaced about 7 sts apart.

Fold Ears in half and sew to Head 6 rounds back from eyes, spaced about 10 sts apart.

Place Hat on Head fitting ears through the ear holes. Do not sew Hat to Head. Weave in all loose ends, working them to inside of Hippo.

ABBREVIATIONS

A, B, C = Color A, Color B, Color C etc;
ch = chain; **dc** = double crochet; **hdc** = half double crochet; **sc** = single crochet;
st(s) = stitch (es); **[]** = work directions in brackets the number of times specified; *** or **** = repeat whatever follows the * or ** as indicated.

