

Crocheted Octo – US version

Give an octo?

Would you like to make a difference and help a premature baby feel safe – then grab your crochet hook. The tentacles of the octo resembles the cord and reminds the babies of the time in the womb. The octos get donated to families with premature babies on the 17 neonatal departments in Denmark. You get to choose which department to donate to – find your octo ambassador on www.spruttegruppen.dk (site is in Danish only)

Crocheted Octo

MATERIALS:

- **Crochet hook** size 3 or 3,5 millimeter
- **Cotton yarn** (100 percent cotton only), cotton 8/4 or 8/8 (the reason for mentioning more options is that tightness is individual and to emphasize that it is perfectly fine to use leftover yarn. The octos does not have to be all alike, though preferably not larger than the one on the picture below and smaller would be great! ☺)
- **Stuffing:** Fiber filling – has to be washable at 60 degrees Celsius (140 degrees Fahrenheit)
- **Tapestry needle**

Abbreviations:

Sc – single crochet

St – stitch

Sts - stitches

Ch – chain

Tg – together

Sl st – slip stitch

Hdc – half double crochet

Dc – double crochet

Body: working in continuous rounds:

1st round: 6 sc in a magic loop

2nd round: 2 sc in each st (12 sts in total)

3rd round: 2 sc in every other st, 1 sc in the other sts (18 sts in total)

4th round: 2 sc in every 3rd st, 1 sc in all other sts (24 sts)

5th round: 2 sc in every 4th st, 1 sc in all other sts (30 sts)

6th round: 2 sc in every 5th st, 1 sc in all other stitches (36 sts)

7th – 14th round: 1 sc in each st (36 sts each round)

15th round: *1 sc in the first 4 st, sc tg 5th and 6th st* repeat 5 times (30 sts remaining)

16th – 17th round: 1 sc in each st (30 sts)

18th round: *1 sc in each of 3 sts, sc tg 4th and 5th st* repeat 5 times (24 sts remaining)

19th-20th round: 1 sc in each st (24 sts)

21st round: *1 sc in first 2 sts, sc tg 3rd and 4th st* repeat 5 times (18 sts remaining)

22nd round: 1 sc in each st (18 sts)

23rd round: *1 sc in first 7 sts, sc tg 8th and 9th st * repeat once (16 sts remaining)

24th round: 1 sc in each st (16 sts)

25th round: this is where the tentacles starts: *1 sc, chain 50, turn, 2 or 3 sc in each chain (49 chains), 1 sc in next st of the body* repeat 7 times, making 8 tentacles. End with a sl st, cut yarn and sew in the end.

The tentacles must not be longer than 22 centimeters when drawn out the longest they can, as they may be a choking hazard if longer.

Bottom:

1st round: 5 sc in a magic ring

2nd round: 2 sc in each stitch (10 stitches)

3rd round: 2 sc in every other stitch, 1 sc in the other stitches (15 stitches) End with a sl st, cut yarn and sew in the ends.

Eyes:

Crochet in single white yarn, make 2 (or embroider the eyes as you like)

1st round: 4 sc in a magic loop

2nd round: 2 sc in each st (8 sts)

3rd round: 2 sc in every other st, 1 sc in the other (12 sts)

End with a sl st, cut yarn and sew in ends.

Embroider pupils with black thread

Assembling the octo

Stuff the body and sew the bottom on. Sew on the eyes (or embroider them on) and embroider a mouth using your preferred stitches.

Accessory inspiration

Purple flower/star:

1st round: ch 6, sl st in first st to make a ring

2nd round: ch 1, 10 sc in the ring, sl st in first sc to end round,

3rd round: ch 1, 1 sc in same st, *ch 3, skip 1 st, 1 sc in next st* repeat 4 times (last repeat ends with a sl st instead of a sc) Now there should be 5 loops

4th round: into the first loop: ch 1, 1sc, 1 hdc, 1 dc, 1 hdc, 1 sc. Repeat into the other 4 loops, in the last loop end with sl st instead of sc. Cut yarn and sew in ends

Green flower with 5 petals

1st round: ch 6, sl st into first st to form a ring

2nd round: ch 1, 10 sc into the ring, sl st in first sc to end round

3rd round: ch 1, 1sc in same st, *ch 3, skip 1 st, 1 sc in next st* repeat 4 times (5 loops)
4th round: *ch 3, (yarn over, hook through loop, yarn over, draw up to the same height as the ch 3, do this 4 more times (10 loops on hook), yarn over, pull through all loops on the hook), ch 3, 1 sc in next st* repeat for each of the 4 remaining loops, end last repeat with sl st instead of sc, fasten of, cut yarn and sew in ends.

Hat:

1st round: 5 sc into a magic ring

2nd round: 2 sc in each st (10 sts)

3rd round: 2 sc in every other st, 1 sc in the rest (15 st)

4th-6th round: 1 sc in each st (15 sts)

7th round: 2 sc in each st (30 sts) sl st in first sc, fasten of, cut yarn and sew in ends

Stuff the hat a little bit and sew it onto the octo. Embroider the hat in 6th round with a double string yarn in contrasting color and make a bow. Sew the bow securely to the hat to insure it does not loosen.

For more inspiration, see

• <http://enelefant.blogspot.dk/2013/03/sprutte-lir-med-opskrift-diy.html>

Instructions for the magic ring, see

• <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEsPB3Rdkic&list=PLbHEcdQw1SaSBx-h-HhLhSMm8Ty0qH8Hq>

• <http://www.garnstudio.com/lang/dk/video.php?id=98>

Follow the collection of octos:

www.facebook.com/pages/Sprutte-Indsamling/428646157220155

If you have any questions or good ideas to share, send an email to:

MAIL@SPRUTTEGRUPPEN.DK

Thank you very much for your support!!!