FREE CROCHET PATTERN

Crochet Ball (Decrease Practice)

Learn sc2tog and the invisible decrease with a set of amigurumi balls · US terms

SKILL LEVEL	SIZE	HOOK
Beginner	About 2.3 in across	3.5 mm (US E-4)
YARN	**STITCHES**	**TIME**
Worsted cotton, 24 yd per ball	sc, inc, invisible dec	45 min per ball

Materials

- Worsted (#4) cotton, about 24 yd per ball in mustard, sage, rust
- 3.5 mm (US E-4) hook, fibre fill, stitch marker, tapestry needle

Abbreviations (US terms)

sc	single crochet	**sc2tog**	single crochet 2 together
inc	2 sc in one st	**st(s)**	stitch(es)
dec	invisible decrease (see steps)	**Rnd**	round

Work in a spiral without joining; move a stitch marker up at the start of each round.

The four decreases

sc2tog	Insert in the next st, yo, pull up a loop (2 loops), insert in the following st, yo, pull up a loop (3 loops). Yo, pull through all 3. (1 st decrease.)
Invisible decrease	Insert the hook in the front loop only of the next st, then in the front loop only of the following st (3 loops on the hook). Yo, pull through 2 loops, yo, pull through the last 2. (1 st decrease; the slant leans the opposite way, perfect for stuffed toys.)
hdc2tog	Yo, insert in the next st, yo, pull up a loop (3 loops). Yo, insert in the following st, yo, pull up a loop (5 loops). Yo, pull through all 5. (1 st decrease, at hdc height.)
dc2tog	(Yo, insert in the next st, yo, pull up a loop, yo, pull through 2) twice in the same st, yo, pull through all 3. (1 st decrease, at dc height; the usual choice for shaping necks and hats.)

Invisible decrease

Step 1	Insert the hook in the front loop only of the next stitch.
Step 2	Without pulling up a loop, insert the hook in the front loop only of the following stitch.
Step 3	Yo and pull through the two front loops: 2 loops left on the hook.
Step 4	Yo and pull through both loops. Two stitches are now one.

Ball

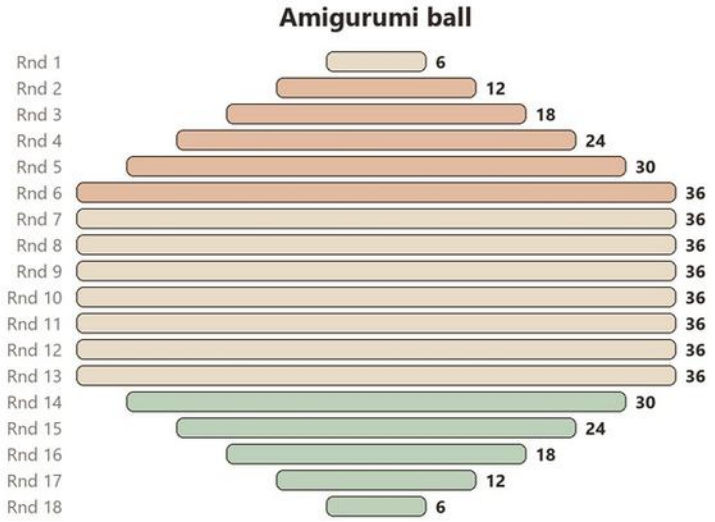
Rnd 1	6 sc in a magic ring.	**(6)**
Rnd 2	2 sc in each st.	**(12)**
Rnd 3	*Sc 1, 2 sc in the next st*; repeat 6 times.	**(18)**
Rnd 4	*Sc 2, 2 sc in the next st*; repeat 6 times.	**(24)**
Rnd 5	*Sc 3, 2 sc in the next st*; repeat 6 times.	**(30)**
Rnd 6	*Sc 4, 2 sc in the next st*; repeat 6 times.	**(36)**
Rnd 7	Sc in each st.	**(36)**
Rnd 8	Sc in each st.	**(36)**
Rnd 9	Sc in each st.	**(36)**
Rnd 10	Sc in each st.	**(36)**
Rnd 11	Sc in each st.	**(36)**
Rnd 12	Sc in each st.	**(36)**
Rnd 13	Sc in each st.	**(36)**
Rnd 14	*Sc 4, dec*; repeat 6 times.	**(30)**
Rnd 15	*Sc 3, dec*; repeat 6 times.	**(24)**
Rnd 16	*Sc 2, dec*; repeat 6 times.	**(18)**
Rnd 17	*Sc 1, dec*; repeat 6 times.	**(12)**
Rnd 18	Dec 6 times.	**(6)**

Finishing

Stuff	After Rnd 16, stuff the ball firmly; push the stuffing into a smooth round shape.
Close	Finish the last round, cut the yarn leaving a 6 in tail. Thread it through the front loop of each of the 6 sts, pull tight and hide the tail inside the ball.
Set	Make one ball in each colour: mustard, sage, rust.

Crochet Ball · Round Map

Increase to 36 sts, 7 even rounds, then decrease back to 6 with invisible decreases



Orange = increase rounds (+6) · Green = decrease rounds (-6) · Cream = even rounds

Stuff after Rnd 16, finish Rnds 17–18 and close the hole

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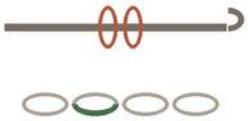
How to Do an Invisible Decrease

Front loops only (green) of two stitches, then finish them as one single crochet

Step 1

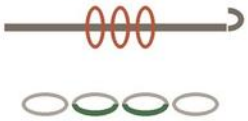
2 loops on the hook



Insert the hook in the front loop only of the next stitch.

Step 2

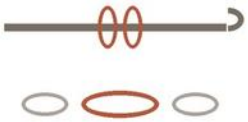
3 loops on the hook



Without pulling up a loop, insert the hook in the front loop only of the following stitch.

Step 3

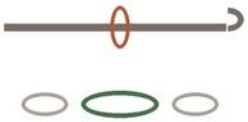
2 loops on the hook



Yo and pull through the two front loops: 2 loops left on the hook.

Step 4

1 loop on the hook



Yo and pull through both loops. Two stitches are now one.

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