

# Hot air balloon and little bear





*Thank you for being part of my world!*

**The pattern includes:**

- Step by step detailed instructions to knit the hot air balloon and the little bear with many complemented photos which will make your process easier.
- Explanations and tips which will help improve your technique. Here you will find everything you need to knit them and give your personal touch.

*Hugs!*



## Materials

- Half thick cotton yarn or acrylic wool in the colors you like.
- Crochet hook on sizes 2,5mm or 2,75mm
- Polyfiber fill for stuffing
- Pointed tapestry needle
- Stitch marker
- Scissors
- Pins
- Black safety eyes on size 6mm
- A 3 mm satin stip
- A button, a wooden bead or other accessories you like.
- Hot glue gun (silicone), optional
- For this pattern I used a half thick 100% cotton yarn 8/6 (6 threads) from the brand Moussa (330mts/150grs).  
You will need for this project 80/90gr of yarn in total.

### Colors of reference:

**Balloon:** medium gray no. 45, baby light blue no. 4, pink no. 47, white no. 1, camel no. 21 for the basket and suspenders.

**Bear:** beige no. 20, a bit of white for the snout and brown to embroider it.



## Abbreviations

**ch:** chain  
**mg:** magic ring  
**sl st:** slip stitch  
**sc:** single crochet  
**hdc:** half double crochet stitch  
**R:** round  
**Rw:** row  
**blo:** back loop only  
**inc:** increase  
**dec:** decrease  
**(...)x:** repeat the instructions between parenthesis as many times as indicated after the x.  
**(...):** quantity of made stitches of the round.



## Some recommendations and advice

- Size: if you use the recommended thickness yarn and hook size you will have a 15/16 cm tall balloon. The total size, basket included, is 30/31 cm aprox. The little bear is 9 cm tall.
- Difficulty: medium (it is necessary to have the basic knowledge of crochet).
- We use the spiral and tapestry technique.
- You may use this same pattern in order to make a bigger or smaller balloon if you use a thicker or thinner yarn.
- Always knit by tightening the stitches with the crochet hook of your choice, one or two sizes lower than the recommended by the yarn maker you use.
- Use a stitch marker or a piece of wool or yarn to point the end of the round.
- Make the changes of color on the last stitch of the current round.
- I recommend you read the pattern completely before starting to knit.
- This pattern is knitted in a single crochet on X form.

### Single crochet on X form

When making the first lace, the yarn must pass under the hook. For the second lace, pass it over. This is how you'll get a single crochet similar to an X.

## Tapestry

I knitted round 23 on the balloon using the tapestry technique. Remember that the change of colors is always made one stitch in advance. As long as we work with one color, we take the other color thread through the back and knit the stitch taking that thread as well. Take care that it won't get noticed in the front of the knit. We will be doing the changes of color as the pattern indicates.

*Watch it in photos*



*Shall we begin?*

## Balloon cover

We start knitting the balloon's cover. Use the gray color

- R1) 6 sc in a mg (6)
- R2) 6 inc (12)
- R3) (1 inc, 1 sc) x6 (18)
- R4) (1 inc, 2 sc) x6 (24)
- R5) (1 inc, 3 sc) x6 (30)

Close with 1 sl st and cut the yarn leaving a small thread to hide.



## Balloon

We start in gray color.

- R1) 6 sc in a mg (6)
- R2) 6 inc (12)
- R3) (1 sc, 1 inc) x6 (18)
- R4) 1 sc, (1 inc, 2 sc) x5, 1 inc, 1 sc (24)
- R5) (3 sc, 1 inc) x6 (30)
- R6) 2 sc, (1 inc, 4 sc) x5, 1 inc, 2 sc (36)
- R7) (5 sc, 1 inc) x6 (42)
- R8) 3 sc, (1 inc, 6 sc) x5, 1 inc, 3 sc (48)
- R9) (7 sc, 1 inc) x6 (54)
- R10) 4 sc, (1 inc, 8 sc) x5, 1 inc, 4 sc (60)
- R11) (9 sc, 1 inc) x6 (66)
- R12) 5 sc, (1 inc, 10 sc) x5, 1 inc, 5 sc (72)
- R13) (11 sc, 1 inc) x6 (78)
- R14 to R18) 78 sc (78) 5 rounds
- Change to light blue color (78) 3 rounds
- (78)

On next round we will use the tapestry technique:

- R23) (3 sc in pink color, 3 sc in gray color) x13 (78)
- (Check the page 4)
- R24) 78 sc (78)





Change to white color  
 R25) (11 sc,1 dec) x6 (72)  
 R26 and R27) 72 sc (72) 2 rounds  
 Change to gray color  
 R28) (10 sc,1 dec) x6 (66)  
 R29) 66 sc (66)  
 Change to light blue  
 R30) 66 sc (66)  
 R31) (9 sc,1 dec) x6 (60)  
 Change to pink color  
 R32) 60 sc (60)  
 R33) (8 sc,1 dec) x6 (54)  
 Change to white color  
 R34) 54 sc (54)  
 R35) (7 sc,1 dec) x6 (48)  
 Change to gray color  
 R36) 48 sc (48)  
 R37) (6 sc,1 dec) x6 (42)  
 R38) 42 sc (42)  
 R39) (5 sc,1 dec) x6 (36)  
 R40) 36 sc (36)  
 R41) (4 sc,1 dec) x6 (30)  
 Fill it with plenty polyfiber.



Let's move on...



Next round is the closure round of the ballon. (R42)

Take the balloon cover you knitted earlier, passing the small remaining thread backwards in order it stays on the inner side of the ballon. Place it with the right side of the knit, looking outward. **Image A.** Knit 30 sc taking a stitch from the balloon and a stitch from the cover together, before closing it completely, put more polyfiber. You may massage it a bit in order to distribute the polyfiber equally.

R42) 30 sc (30)

R43) Make a border of 30 sl st. Don't knit them tight. **Images B and C.**



Finally cut the yarn leaving a remainder . With the help of the tapestry needle make a couple of stitches to the balloon cover to flatten it a bit, as it is shown next on photos. Hide the thread and cut.



## Note

You may do the R23 without the tapestry technique, or make the drawing you like. Let your imagination and creativity flow as the same as the distribution of the stripes.



## Balloons ruffle

I used the **light blue** color because the ruffle is placed on the R30/31 which were made of that color. The suggested quantity of chains will depend on the quantity of polyfiber you have used, therefore you may do a couple chs more or less than the ones I did. The ruffle must be as shown on the photos, with a little hang between every grip point. Make the necessary tests until you get the correct measurement (in order to measure it, consult the assembling on page 13).

Rw1) Knit 76 ch leaving a short thread at the beginning.

Rw2) Start on the 2nd ch from the hook and make the following sequence:

\*1 sc, 2 ch, 1 sl st on the base of the single crochet, skip 1 ch\*

Repeat from \*to\* until the end and finish with 1 sc. Leave a long thread to sew.

Tie both threads with a double knot tightening tem well. Don't cut them.

*The images will help you.*



# Basket

The base of the basket is squared. This will make more width possible for the little bear to fit in comfortably with the body, legs and arms, completely.

Start on **camel color**. The stitch maker is essential.

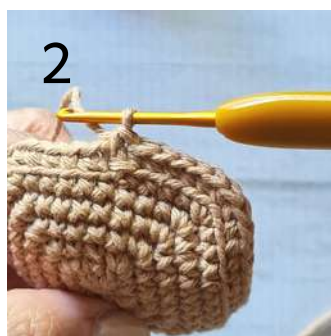
- R1) 8 sc (8)
- R2) (1 sc, 3 sc in a same stitch) x4 (16)
- R3) 2 sc, 3 sc in a same stitch, (3 sc, 3 sc in a same stitch) x3, 1 sc (24)
- R4) 3 sc, 3 sc in a same stitch, (5 sc, 3 sc in a same stitch) x3, 2 sc (32)
- R5) 4 sc, 3 sc in a same stitch, (7 sc, 3 sc in a same stitch) x3, 3 sc (40)
- R6) 5 sc, 3 sc in a same stitch, (9 sc, 3 sc in a same stitch) x3, 4 sc (48)

Close with 1 sl st.

R7) Make 2 ch (will count as the 1st stitch of this round) and knit 47 sc **BLO** (48)

Continue knitting in spiral inserting the hook on the 2nd ch in order to make the first sc of the R8. **Images 1 and 2.**

R8 to R17) 48 sc (48) 10 rounds



Change to grey color and close the R17 with 1 sl st.



Turn the knit and continue knitting with the basket interior looking inwards. This will make all the sc of the last round of the border remain with the right side of the knit in the front.

R18) 48 sc (48)

Close with 1 sl st, cut yarn leaving a small thread which you will hide with the help of the tapestry needle.

Turn around the border.



## Suspenders

Knit 4 strips of 45 ch in **camel color** leaving a thread at the beginning and at the end to sew. The strips are approx 18 cm long.

You may do the suspenders shorter or longer, as you like.



## Assemble

- Divide the balloon in 4 equal parts pointing the stitches with pins, between R27 in white and the R28 in grey.



- Place the ruffle on the pointed stitches and take notice for it to remain just and equal. Don't sew it to the balloon, just hold it with the pins.



- For each marked stitch with the pin, sew a suspender taking care for the right side to look in front. The suspender must pass underneath the ruffle. You will sew it once you've finished the 4 suspenders (don't take away the ruffle, once the suspender is sewed, place it with a pin again).



- I recommend you start sewing the ruffle by uniting the ends and making it coincide with the part where the changes of color of the round are seen. **Image A.** Hide the shorter thread of the ruffle inside the balloon and cut the rest. Now start sewing the ruffle with the long thread, giving a couple of stitches only for the 4 marked stitches. The rest of the ruffle is not sewed, it must fall naturally.



*If yours looks like this...*

*Awesome!*

- Prepare 4 ribbons with the satin strip. Glue each one on the unions on top of the sewing of the ruffle. I used the hot glue gun in order to stick them, because it is neatier. If you don't want to use glue you may sew or knit them. Another option to decorate the balloon is to put some accessories like flowers, buttons or whatever you like, instead of the little ribbons.



- Sew the button to the basket on the opposite side of the beginning of the rounds.



- Give the basket a square shape in order to mark the corners where the suspenders will be sewed or glued. I will show you both options. I suggest you sew or glue them inside,  $\frac{1}{2}$  or 1 cm from the border. Remember that the use of glue is optional.





*Almost finished...*



- In order to hold the balloon, knit a 16 ch strip in color grey. Leave a long thread at the beginning and at the end to sew. Pass one of the threads through the center of the magic ring with the tapestry needle and pull it out through any part of the balloon. **Image 1** Thread the needle with the other yarn and pass a wooden bead through the entire strip. Then pass the needle through the bead and through the magic ring again, pulling out the thread through the same stitch where you left the first one. **Image 2** Adjust tightly by pulling both threads. Finally make a firm double knot, hide the threads inside the balloon various times to ensure and cut them.



Balloon finished!



# Little bear

## Snout

In white color.

R1) 6 sc in a am (6)

R2) (2 inc, 1 sc) x2 (10)

R3) (1 inc, 4 sc) x2 (12)

Close with 1 sl st, leave a long thread to sew.

Embroider the nose with brown yarn.

**Note:** the snout has a little oval shape. Guide yourself with the photos to embroider the nose.



## Ears

Knit 2 equal pieces in beige color

R1) 6sc in a mg (6)

R2) (1 inc, 1 sc) x3 (9)

R3) (1 inc, 2 sc) x3 (12)

Close with 1 sl st leaving a long thread to sew.



## Legs

Knit 2 equal pieces in beige color

R1) 5 sc in a mg (5)

R2) 5 inc (10)

R3) (1 inc, 1 sc) x5 (15)

R4) 15 sc (15)

R5) 3 sc, 5 dec, 2 sc (10)

Close with 1 sl st leaving a long thread to sew.

Fill a little with polyfiber.



## Arms

Knit 2 equal pieces in beige color

- R1) 8 sc in a am (8)  
R2) 8 sc (8)  
R3) (1 dec, 2 sc) x2 (6)  
R4 and R5) 6 sc (6) 2 rounds

R6) In order to close the arm, flatten both sides of the knit and unite every pair of opposite stitches with 1 sc. You should have 3 sc. Close with 1 sl st leaving a long thread to sew. The arms don't get filled.



## Head and body

They are knitted together, without sewing. We start with the **head** in beige color.

- R1) 6 sc in a am (6)  
R2) 6 inc (12)  
R3) (1 inc, 1 sc)x6 (18)  
R4) (1 inc, 2 sc)x6 (24)  
R5) (1 inc, 3 sc)x6 (30)  
R6 to R12) 30 sc (30) 7 rounds  
R13) (1 dec, 3 sc) x6 (24)  
R14) (1 dec, 2 sc) x6 (18)

Place the safety eyes between rounds 9 and 10 and keeping 5 visible stitches of separations between them.

- R15) (1 dec, 1 sc) x6 (12)

From now on we will continue with the **body**.



- R16) (1 inc, 1 sc) x6 (18)  
 R17) (1 inc, 5 sc) x3 (21)  
 R18) (1 inc, 6 sc) x3 (24)  
 R19) (1 inc, 7 sc) x3 (27)  
 Fill the head tightly with polyfiber.  
 R20 to R24) 27 sc (27) 5 rounds  
 R25) (1 dec, 7 sc) x3 (24)  
 R26) (1 dec, 2 sc) x6 (18)  
 R27) (1 dec, 1 sc) x6 (12)

Close with 1 sl st. Cut the yarn leaving a long thread to sew.

Fill the body tightly with polyfiber.

Close the body with the tapestry needle passing the yarn through every stitch and just through the front loops only. Adjust as long as you close. Make sure it is well closed with a couple of stitches, as shown on images.



### Clarification

If you are used to close with 6 sc, make one more round of 6 dec.  
 I like closing with 12 stitches because it makes the base flatter.



*Almost finished...*

## Assemble

- Sew the snout placing it between the eyes, at the same height or one round above. You may give expression to the look by pushing a little bit inside the eyes, if you like. Images A and B.



- Sew the ears between rounds 3 and 4 approx counting from the beginning of the head.



- Sew the little legs with the decrease looking upwards. Remember to fill them with a bit of polyfiber.
- Place the arms just underneath the head in order to sew them.



## Necks ruffle

Knit a 18 ch strip in gray color or the one you like, leaving a bit of thread at the beginning. Make 2 hdc starting on the 3rd ch from the hook. Continue knitting 3 hdc on each chain until the end. On the last chain make 2 hdc only and 1 sl st in order to close. Cut the yarn leaving a thread to sew. Tie both threads with a double knot, cut the beginning thread and with the other one, sew the ruffle on the back. Hide the thread and cut the rest.



Congratulations! You've made it!

