

Stacking Toy – Caterpillar Crochet Pattern



Do you want to surprise your toddler with an amazing toy and crochet this Caterpillar - stacking, counting, and color sorting game?

Video - <https://youtu.be/NMNHSZRYcn0>

This Stacking Caterpillar is a clever, educational, and multifunctional toy developed according to Montessori learning methods. It is suitable for toddlers and preschoolers and will amuse them well. The Caterpillar offers various developmental, learning, and activity elements:

- Improve hand and eye coordination and small motor skills;
- Color sorting;
- Counting;
- Number recognition;
- Simple math such as sum and subtract up to 15.

The finished toy is about 50 cm (20 in) long and 17 cm (6.7 in) at its highest part. The rings have a diameter of 7 cm (2.8 in) and the squares with the addition and subtraction signs have a side of 5,5 cm (2.2 in).

The pdf file contains a step-by-step description and lots of photos. I'm sure that the process of work will be exciting, and you will have an interesting toy.

Materials:

- Yarn: YarnArt Jeans (55% Cotton, 45% PolyAcrylic, 1.76 oz = 174 yds/50 g = 160 m): 7 colors – yellow, light blue, blue, light green, red (2 balls), beige, and a small amount of white (Colors 88, 75, 17, 11, 26, 87, and 01)
- Hook size – I use 2.00 mm
- Fiberfill for stuffing
- Craft foam 20 mm thickness – approximately A3 size
- Scissors
- Tapestry needles
- Pins
- Stitch markers

Abbreviations:

st = Stitch

ch = Chain stitch

sl st = Slip stitch

sc = Single crochet

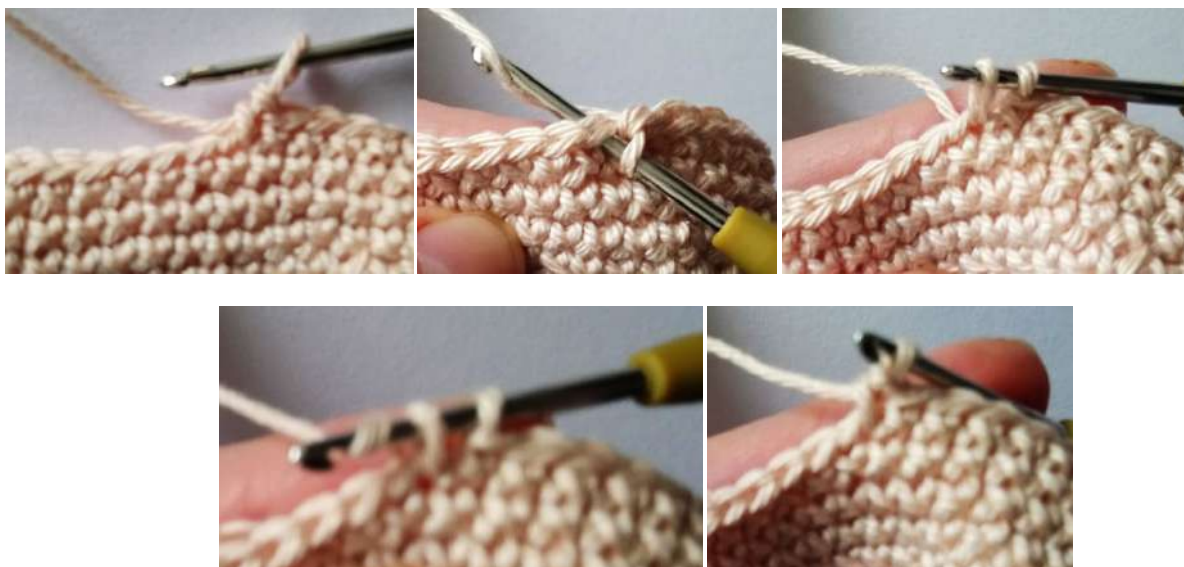
rnd = Round

inc = Increase

dec = Invisible decrease

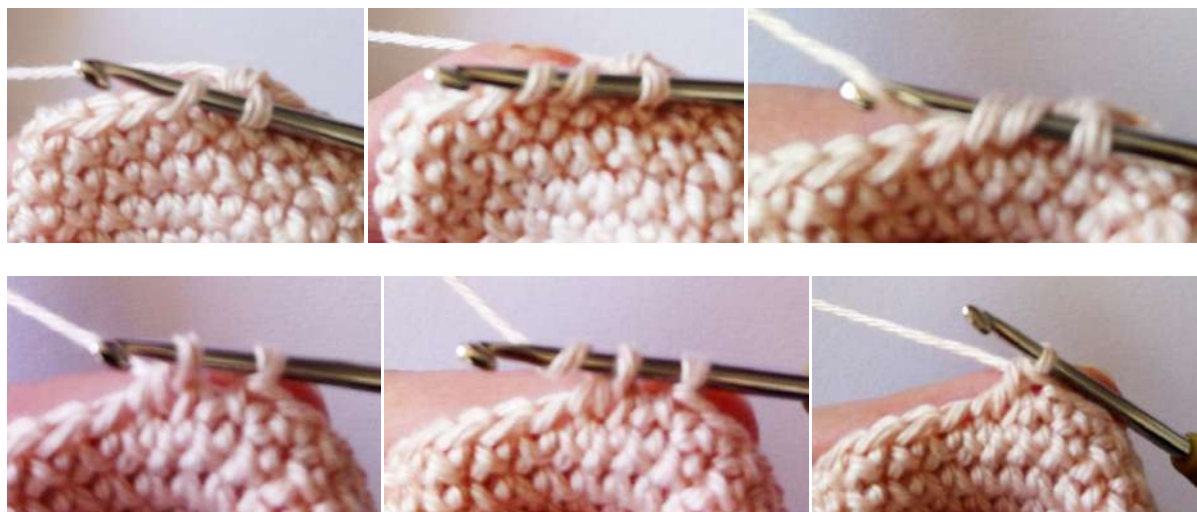
TIPS:

- ❖ In my project, I prefer to use cross stitch single crochet instead of single crochet. It's a different method for creating a single crochet. Here's how to work it – insert the hook into the next stitch, don't do yarn over, instead when you hook points down grab the yarn and pull up the loop, yarn over and pull through two loops.

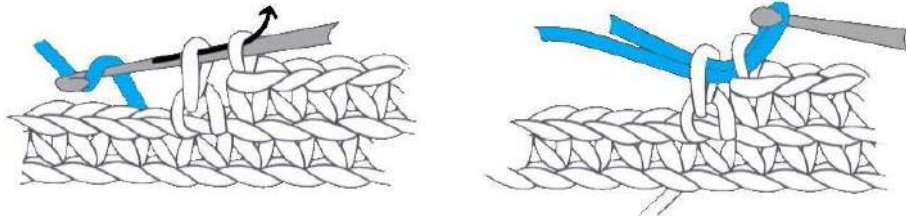


Here's a pretty good video - <https://youtu.be/4iaqhpBayDA>

- ❖ How to work invisible decrease – insert the hook into front loop of the first stitch, insert the hook into front loop of next stitch, grab the yarn and pull up through both loops. Now you have two loops left on the hook – yarn over and draw through both loops.



- ❖ To make a neat color change: As you make the last stitch in the old color, pause before the last step of that stitch. For the final ‘yarn over and draw through all loops on the hook’, substitute the new yarn, so you draw the new yarn through your loops. This gives a cleaner edge to the color change.



- ❖ For rectangles with the numbers: I recommend using the intarsia crochet method. This technique allows us to use two or more different colors in each row. It's actually a lot less complicated than it looks. Just follow these simple rules:

- The most important thing: 1 square on the chart is 1 sc!
- When you work the right side all tails should be on the wrong side of your work and you should read the chart from right to left.
- When you work the wrong side all tails should be on the wrong side of your work, in front of you and you should read the chart from left to right.

Rings

Make 5 rings in red, 4 rings in yellow, 3 rings in light green, 2 rings in light blue, and 1 ring in blue.

Rnd 1: ch 30, sl st in the 1st st to make a rnd

Rnd 2: sc in all 30 ch [30] (start in the 1st ch where the sl st is worked)



Rnd 3: (sc in next 2 st, inc, sc in next 2 st) repeat 6 times [36]



Rnd 4: (sc in next 5 st, inc) repeat 6 times [42]

Rnd 5: (sc in next 3 st, inc, sc in next 3 st) repeat 6 times [48]

Rnd 6: (sc in next 7 st, inc) repeat 6 times [54]

Rnd 7: (sc in next 4 st, inc, sc in next 4 st) repeat 6 times [60]

Rnd 8 – 12: sc in all 60 st [60]

Rnd 13: (sc in next 4 st, dec, sc in next 4 st) repeat 6 times [54]

Rnd 14: (sc in next 7 st, dec) repeat 6 times [48]

Rnd 15: (sc in next 3 st, dec, sc in next 3 st) repeat 6 times [42]

Rnd 16: (sc in next 5 st, dec) repeat 6 times [36]

Rnd 17: (sc in next 2 st, dec, sc in next 2 st) repeat 6 times [30]

Rnd 18 – 19: sc in all 30 st [30]

Sl st, fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.



Sewing

Fold the ring in half and sew the first and the last rnd together. Pass the needle through each sc **twice**. Stuff with fiberfill as you go taking care to do this evenly. When you have only a few stitches left, stuff the whole ring, if necessary use a thin wooden stick or tweezers, and sew them. Fasten off and hide the tail inside.



Circles

Make two circles in yellow, light green, light blue, and blue.

Rnd 1: start 6 sc in a magic ring [6]

Rnd 2: inc 6 times [12]

Rnd 3: (sc, inc) repeat 6 times [18]

Rnd 4: (sc, inc, sc) repeat 6 times [24]

Rnd 5: (sc in next 3 st, inc) repeat 6 times [30]

Rnd 6: (sc in next 2 st, inc, sc in next 2 st) repeat 6 times [36]

Rnd 7: (sc in next 5 st, inc) repeat 6 times [42]

Rnd 8: (sc in next 3 st, inc, sc in next 3 st) repeat 6 times [48]

Rnd 9: (sc in next 7 st, inc) repeat 6 times [54]

Rnd 10: (sc in next 4 st, inc, sc in next 4 st) repeat 6 times [60]

Rnd 11: (sc in next 9 st, inc) repeat 6 times [66]

Rnd 12: (sc in next 5 st, inc, sc in next 5 st) repeat 6 times [72]

Rnd 13: (sc in next 11 st, inc) repeat 6 times [78]

Rnd 14: (sc in next 6 st, inc, sc in next 6 st) repeat 6 times [84]

Rnd 15: (sc in next 13 st, inc) repeat 6 times [90]

Rnd 16: (sc in next 7 st, inc, sc in next 7 st) repeat 6 times [96]

Sl st, fasten off.



Make 2 red circles, repeat all rnds from above and crochet two additional rnds:

Rnd 17: (sc in next 15 st, inc) repeat 6 times [102]

Rnd 18: (sc in next 8 st, inc, sc in next 8 st) repeat 6 times [108]

Sl st, fasten off.



I use steam blocking for better looking.

Poles

Start in beige, color 87. Stuff as you go.

First pole

Rnd 1: start 8 sc in a magic ring [8]

Rnd 2: inc 8 times [16]

Rnd 3 – 16: sc in all 16 st [16]. Sl st, fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.



Second pole

Rnd 1: start 8 sc in a magic ring [8]

Rnd 2: inc 8 times [16]

Rnd 3 – 24: sc in all 16 st [16]. Sl st, fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Third pole

Rnd 1: start 8 sc in a magic ring [8]

Rnd 2: inc 8 times [16]

Rnd 3 – 32: sc in all 16 st [16]. Sl st, fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Fourth pole

Rnd 1: start 8 sc in a magic ring [8]

Rnd 2: inc 8 times [16]

Rnd 3 – 40: sc in all 16 st [16]. Sl st, fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Fifth pole

Rnd 1: start 8 sc in a magic ring [8]

Rnd 2: inc 8 times [16]

Rnd 3 – 48: sc in all 16 st [16]. Sl st, fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Eyes

Start in white, color 01. Make 2 pieces.

Rnd 1: ch 5

Rnd 2: 3 sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 2 ch, 3 sc in the last ch, turn and continue working on the other side of the chain, sc in next 2 st [10]

Rnd 3: (inc 3 times, sc in next 2 st) repeat 2 times [16]

Rnd 4: (sc, inc) repeat 3 times, sc in next 2 st, (sc, inc) repeat 3 times, sc in next 2 st [22]

Rnd 5: (sc, inc, sc) repeat 3 times, sc in next 2 st, (sc, inc, sc) repeat 3 times, sc in next 2 st [28]

Row 6: sc, sl st in next 2 st, fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.



Pupils

Start in blue, color 17. Make 2 pieces.

Rnd 1: start 6 sc in a magic ring [6]

Rnd 2: inc 6 times [12]

Sc, sl st, fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.



Mouth

Start in beige, color 87.

Ch 10, sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 8 ch, fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.



Tentacles

Start in blue, color 17. Make 2 pieces. Stuff as you go.

Rnd 1: start 6 sc in a magic ring [6]

Rnd 2: inc 6 times [12]

Rnd 3: (sc, inc) repeat 6 times [18]

Rnd 4: (sc, inc, sc) repeat 6 times [24]

Rnd 5 – 8: sc in all 24 st [24]

Rnd 9: (sc, dec, sc) repeat 6 times [18]

Rnd 10: (sc in next 4 st, dec) repeat 3 times [15]

Rnd 11 – 15: sc in all 15 st [15]

Sl st, fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.



Numbers

The back of the numbers – make 5 pieces.

Start in beige, color 87, and ch 14.

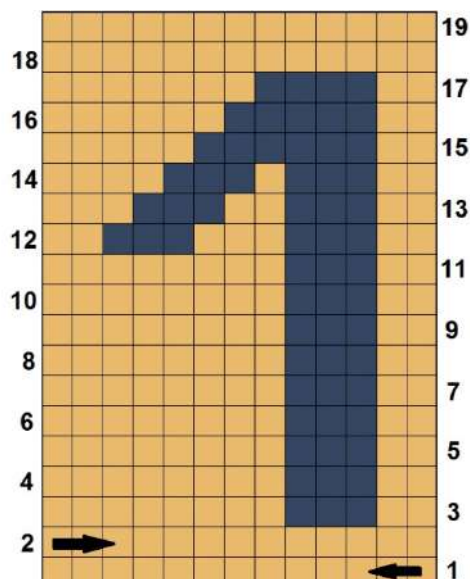
Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 12 ch [13]

Row 2 – 19: turn, 1 lifting ch, sc in all 13 st [13]

Fasten off.



Number 1



Start in beige (color 87) and ch 14.

Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 12 ch [13]

Row 2: turn, 1 lifting ch, sc in all 13 st [13]

Row 3: turn, 1 lifting ch, 2 sc (beige), 3 sc (blue), 8 sc (beige) [13] (It's the right side of your work).

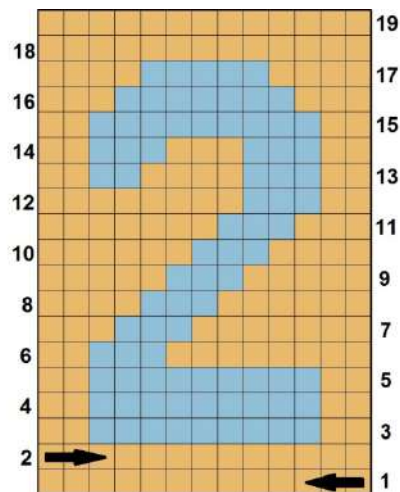
Row 4: turn, 1 lifting ch and continue according to the chart from left to right, do not cut the yarn after Row 19.



Put the two pieces (this one and a back) back to back and join them with sc. You should crochet sc across the four sides, working 3 sc in each corner. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.



Number 2



Start in beige (color 87) and ch 14.

Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 12 ch [13]

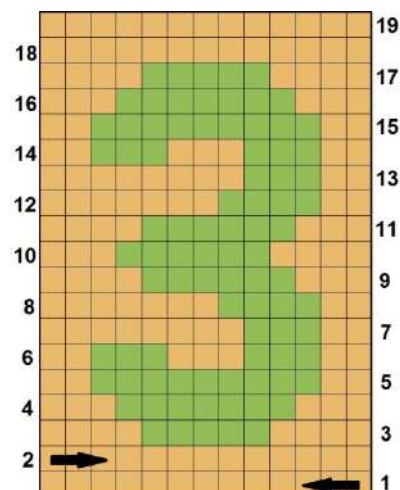
Row 2: turn, 1 lifting ch, sc in all 13 st [13]

Row 3: turn, 1 lifting ch, 2 sc (beige), 9 sc (light blue), 2 sc (beige) [13] (It's the right side of your work).

Row 4: turn, 1 lifting ch and continue according to the chart from left to right, do not cut the yarn after Row 19.

Put the two pieces (this one and a back) back to back and join them with sc. You should crochet sc across the four sides, working 3 sc in each corner. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Number 3



Start in beige (color 87) and ch 14.

Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 12 ch [13]

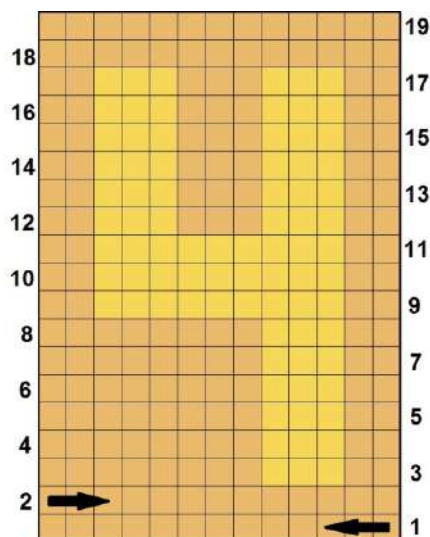
Row 2: turn, 1 lifting ch, sc in all 13 st [13]

Row 3: turn, 1 lifting ch, 4 sc (beige), 5 sc (light green), 4 sc (beige) [13] (It's the right side of your work).

Row 4: turn, 1 lifting ch and continue according to the chart from left to right, do not cut the yarn after Row 19.

Put the two pieces (this one and a back) back to back and join them with sc. You should crochet sc across the four sides, working 3 sc in each corner. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Number 4



Start in beige (color 87) and ch 14.

Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 12 ch [13]

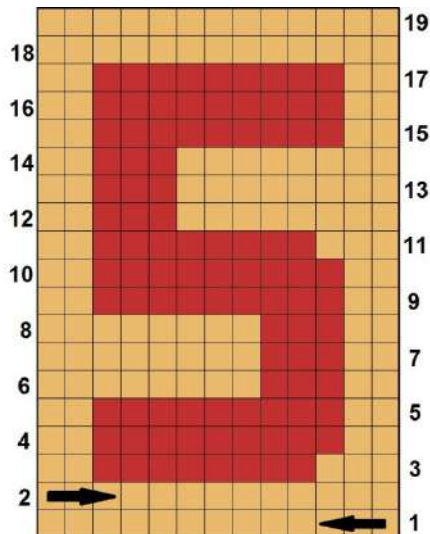
Row 2: turn, 1 lifting ch, sc in all 13 st [13]

Row 3: turn, 1 lifting ch, 2 sc (beige), 3 sc (yellow), 8 sc (beige) [13] (It's the right side of your work).

Row 4: turn, 1 lifting ch and continue according to the chart from left to right, do not cut the yarn after Row 19.

Put the two pieces (this one and a back) back to back and join them with sc. You should crochet sc across the four sides, working 3 sc in each corner. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Number 5



Start in beige (color 87) and ch 14.

Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 12 ch [13]

Row 2: turn, 1 lifting ch, sc in all 13 st [13]

Row 3: turn, 1 lifting ch, 3 sc (beige), 8 sc (red), 2 sc (beige) [13] (It's the right side of your work).

Row 4: turn, 1 lifting ch and continue according to the chart from left to right, do not cut the yarn after Row 19.

Put the two pieces (this one and a back) back to back and join them with sc. You should crochet sc across the four sides, working 3 sc in each corner. Fasten off, leaving a tail for sewing.

Symbols

The back of the symbols – make 3 pieces.

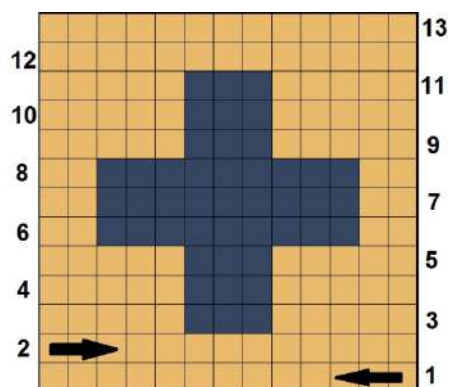
Start in beige, color 87, and ch 14.

Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 12 ch [13]

Row 2 – 13: turn, 1 lifting ch, sc in all 13 st [13]

Fasten off.

Plus sign



Start in beige (color 87) and ch 14.

Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 12 ch [13]

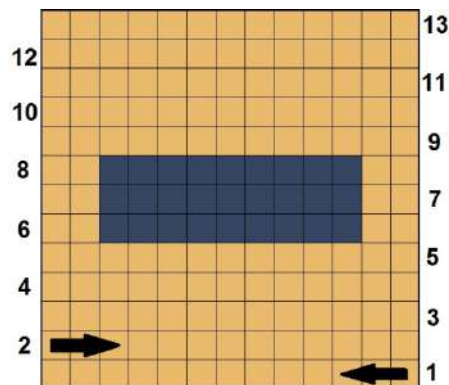
Row 2: turn, 1 lifting ch, sc in all 13 st [13]

Row 3: turn, 1 lifting ch, 5 sc (beige), 3 sc (blue), 5 sc (beige) [13] (It's the right side of your work).

Row 4: turn, 1 lifting ch and continue according to the chart from left to right, do not cut the yarn after Row 13.

Put the two pieces (this one and a back) back to back and join them with sc. You should crochet sc across the four sides, working 3 sc in each corner. Fasten off.

Minus sign



Start in beige (color 87) and ch 14.

Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 12 ch [13]

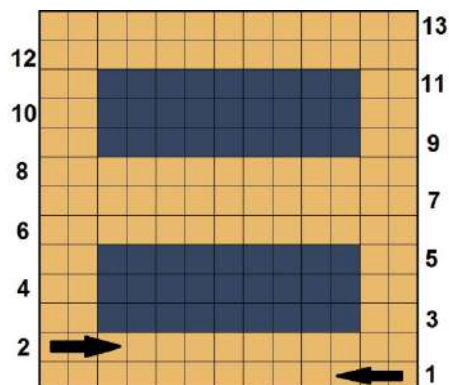
Row 2 – 5: turn, 1 lifting ch, sc in all 13 st [13]

Row 6: turn, 1 lifting ch, 2 sc (beige), 9 sc (blue), 2 sc (beige) [13] (It's the wrong side of your work).

Row 4: turn, 1 lifting ch and continue according to the chart from right to left, do not cut the yarn after Row 13.

Put the two pieces (this one and a back) back to back and join them with sc. You should crochet sc across the four sides, working 3 sc in each corner. Fasten off.

Equals sign



Start in beige (color 87) and ch 14.

Row 1: sc in the 2nd ch from the hook, sc in next 12 ch [13]

Row 2: turn, 1 lifting ch, sc in all 13 st [13]

Row 3: turn, 1 lifting ch, 2 sc (beige), 9 sc (blue), 2 sc (beige) [13] (It's the right side of your work).

Row 4: turn, 1 lifting ch and continue according to the chart from left to right, do not cut the yarn after Row 13.

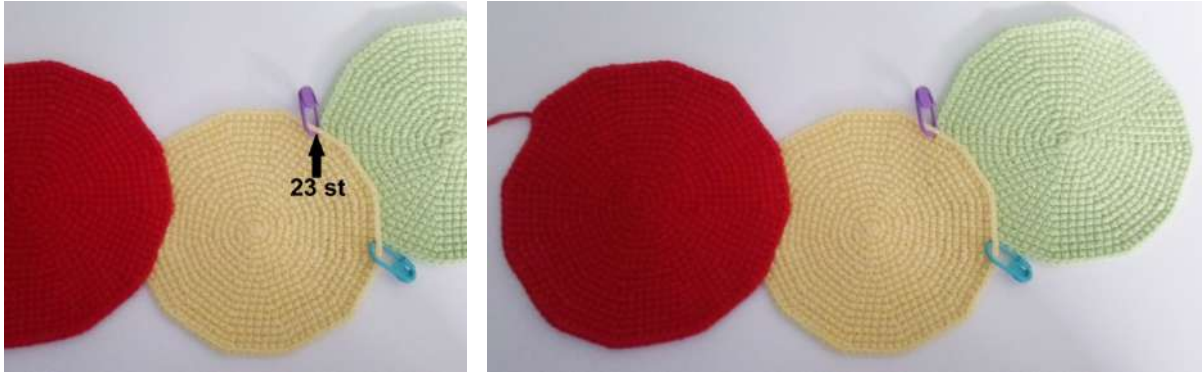
Put the two pieces (this one and a back) back to back and join them with sc. You should crochet sc across the four sides, working 3 sc in each corner. Fasten off.

Assembling

Put two stitch markers on the red circle at a distance of 16 stitches between them. Put the red circle on the yellow one as these 18 stitches lie on it and sew them. [18 stitches from the red circle should cover the yellow one].



Count 22 stitches from the top of the yellow circle and put a stitch marker on the 23rd stitch. Put the second stitch marker at a distance of 16 stitches from the first one. Sew the yellow circle on the green circle - 18 stitches from the yellow circle should cover the green one.



Count 22 stitches from the top of the green circle and put a stitch marker on the 23rd stitch. Put the second stitch marker at a distance of 16 stitches from the first one. Sew the green circle on the light blue circle - 18 stitches from the green circle should cover the light blue one.



Count 22 stitches from the top of the light blue circle and put a stitch marker on the 23rd stitch. Put the second stitch marker at a distance of 16 stitches from the first one. Sew the light blue circle on the blue circle - 18 stitches from the light blue circle should cover the blue one.



The front part of the caterpillar is ready.



The back part is assembled as if in a mirror. See the photo below. 18 stitches from each circle must lie on the next. In the same way as above - count 22 stitches from the top of the yellow circle and put a stitch marker on the 23rd stitch. Put the second stitch marker at a distance of 16 stitches from the first one. Proceed with the other circles.



Now we'll work sc across the whole front part of the caterpillar.

Rnd 1: attach with a loop, ch, sc in the same st, sc across the blue circle, continue with sc across the light blue circle, continue with sc across the light green circle and so on until you make a full rnd.



Rnd 2 – 6: sc across the whole shape



Stop crocheting after **Rnd 6** without cutting the thread. Sew the poles starting from the smallest one on the blue circle. The pole should be exactly in the middle of the circle and well stuffed.



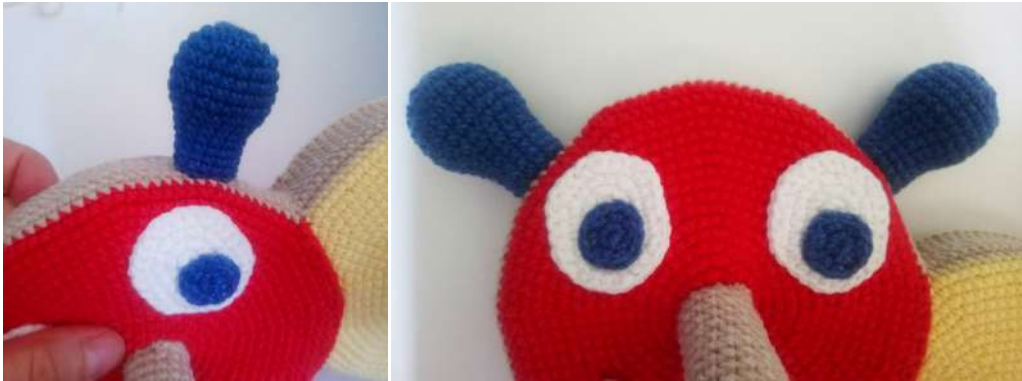
Sew the eyes, pupils, and mouth on the red circle.



Put the back part on the craft foam and cut a shape just like it. Place the craft foam between the front and the back part and join them with sl st.



Sew the tentacles on the head. Sew the numbers.



The Stacking Toy - Caterpillar is ready!

