

FreshStitches

 *a fresh approach to crochet*



Vanburn the Bee

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Length: 5 inches

DOB: December, 2008

For detailed instructions, articles and more patterns, visit:

<http://www.freshstitches.com>

Abbreviations

ch: chain
ch tog: chain together
sc: single crochet
st: stitch

Materials

Size H crochet hook
tapestry needle
two 12mm animal eyes
a few handfuls of stuffing

Yarn

For the yarn, I use 100% wool worsted weight (Ella Rae is the brand used in the sample). However, any worsted weight yarn is fine (including acrylics such as Red Heart).

MC- Black (Ella Rae Classic color # 32)

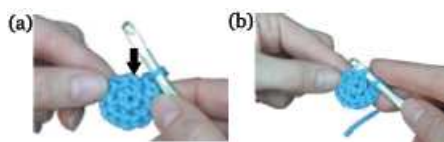
SC- Yellow (Ella Rae Classic color # 44)

AC- White (Ella Rae Classic color # 01)

Directions

Stitch into the back

All stitches in the round are into the back loop, unless otherwise directed. Look at picture (a), and see how the arrow points to the back loop? You will stitch into this loop, as pictured in (b). Stitching into the back loop creates ridges on the right side of the piece. For rows, you will stitch into the front loop, unless otherwise directed. You can stitch into both loops if you desire, but this will change the look of the final product.



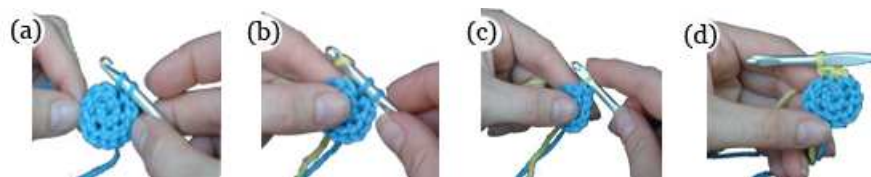
Starting out: the sloppy slip knot

Most pieces in this pattern (as they are based on circles) begin with stitching six times into one loop. We recommend the 'sloppy slip knot' to avoid creating a hole in the center (a). To do this, twist the yarn around the hook to begin, and crochet as directed. Once you have completed your first round, pull on the tail, while holding the loop you have created (b). The loop will end up tighter, as pictured in (c).



Color Changes

This pattern calls for switching from one color to another, but there is a trick to doing it so the change in color is very clean. Stitch up to 2 stitches before you are supposed to change colors (we are demonstrating here with the single crochet). In the next stitch (the last one of your current color), do not pull the final loop through, leaving as pictured in (a). Instead, loop the new color around your needle (b), and pull the loop through (c). Now, just stitch as normal. This technique leaves you with a clean color change, as shown in (d).



Fasten off with long tail

What does this mean? It just means that when you are ending a piece, to leave a lot (about 6-9 inches) of extra yarn, as pictured. This will be used to attach this piece to another piece. To attach your piece to another, just thread the long tail through a tapestry needle, and stitch to the second piece.



Attaching Parts Together

In this pattern, you will be instructed to attach two pieces together, usually attaching a smaller part (such as a leg) onto a larger part (like a body). The small part will have a row of stitches at the opening, and a long tail. Thread a tapestry needle with the long tail. Put the small part where it should go along the body, and pick up a stitch on the body. Keep going (one stitch on small part, one stitch on the body), until you have fully attached the part. When you are done, tie a knot to fasten off. Use the tapestry needle to pull the knot inside, so you don't have any loose ends sticking out.

The Pattern

Body

With MC, ch 2

Round 1: sc 6 times in 2nd ch from hook (6)

Round 2: sc in each st (6)

Rounds 3-4: repeat round 2 (6)

Round 5: sc twice in each st (12)

Round 6: * sc twice in next st, sc in next st. Repeat from * 5 times (18)

Round 7: * sc twice in next st, sc in each of next 2 sts. Repeat from * 5 times (24)

Round 8: * sc twice in next st, sc in each of next 3 sts. Repeat from * 5 times (30)

Round 9: With SC, sc in each st (30)

Round 10: Repeat round 9 (30)

Round 11: With MC, sc in each st (30)

Round 12: Repeat round 11 (30)

Rows 13-16: Repeat rounds 9-12

Round 17: * ch tog next 2 sts, sc in each of next 3 sts. Repeat from * 5 times (24)

Round 18: * ch tog next 2 sts, sc in each of next 2 sts. Repeat from * 5 times (18)

Round 19: * ch tog next 2 sts, sc in next st. Repeat from * 5 times (12)

Fasten Off with long tail.



Wings

Make 4.

With AC, ch 2

Round 1: sc 6 times in 2nd ch from hook (6)

Round 2: sc twice in each st (12)

Round 3: * sc twice in next st, sc in next st. rep from * 5 times (18)

Fasten off with long tail.

Attach wings to body by pulling long tail and string from center to inside of body and tying a knot. This secures the wing alongside the body. You will attach two wings to each side of body, as pictured. Stuff body.



Eyes

Make 2.

Inner Eye

With SC, ch 2

Round 1: sc 6 times in 2nd ch from hook (6)

Fasten off with long tail.

Outer Eye

With AC, ch 2

Round 1: sc 6 times in 2nd ch from hook (6)

Round 2: * sc twice in next st, sc in next st. Repeat from * 2 times (9)

Fasten off with long tail.

Connect

Stitch inner eye to center of outer eye.

Antennae

Make 2.

With MC, ch 10.

Row 1: turn, sc in each st (9)

Fasten off.

Head

With MC, ch 2

Round 1: sc 6 times in 2nd ch from hook (6)

Round 2: sc twice in each st (12)

Round 3: * sc twice in next st, sc in next st. rep from * 5 times (18)

Round 4: sc in each st (18)

Rounds 5-6: repeat round 4 (18)

Round 7: * ch tog next 2 sts, sc in next st. Repeat from * 5 times (12)

Do not fasten off.

Attach eyes to head.

Attach base of antenna to head.

Stuff head.

Now, finish stitching head

Round 8: * ch tog next 2 sts * 5 times (6)

Round 9: ch tog 1st and 3rd st (1)

Fasten off.



At this point, attach head to body!

Congrats! You now have an adorable bee!

