

BABY OTTER

Materials Needed:

Size I hook

Worsted weight yarn (I used Red Heart Super Saver Buff and café latte) one of each

Lion Brand Fun Fur (I used ginger and taupe) two skeins of each color

15mm safety eyes (or black yarn to embroider on)

21mm safety nose (or black yarn to embroider on)

Polyfill

Terms Used:

MR: magic ring

Sc: single crochet

Inc: work 2 sc into one stitch to increase

Dec: sc 2 together to decrease

Finished size: Approximately 18 inches from the top of head to tip of tail

Pattern notes:

- ❖ The main body is worked from head to tail in one piece. The four legs and ears are made separately and will need to be sewn on.
- ❖ You will hold two strands together throughout; one of the regular worsted weight yarn and one of the fun fur.
- ❖ If making this for a younger child, I suggest embroidering on eyes and nose as the safety versions can pose a choking hazard.
- ❖ I typically use a magic ring to start anything worked in the round. This is harder to do with fun fur, so you may want to chain 2 and work your starting round in the second chain from your hook.
- ❖ With fun fur, you will want the **wrong side** to be facing. This is the side that has the most fuzziness. I find that after working a few rows, it's easier to flip the project inside out and continue crocheting as you were with the wrong side facing you.
- ❖ When attaching the ears and feet, you only need to cut the worsted weight yarn longer to attach with. You don't need to attach the pieces using the fun fur.
- ❖ Do not join rounds as you go. Work in a continuous spiral.



Pattern:

Starting at top of head with **buff and ginger** held together;

1. In MR, work 6 sc (6)
 2. Inc in each st around (12)
 3. (sc, inc) x6 around (18)
 4. (2 sc, inc) x6 around (24)
 5. (3 sc, inc) x6 around (30)
 6. (4 sc, inc) x6 around (36)
 7. (5 sc, inc) x6 around (42)
 8. (6 sc, inc) x6 around (48)
 - 9-16. sc around (48) *8 rounds*
 17. (6 sc, dec) x6 (42)
 18. (5 sc, dec) x6 (36)
 19. (4 sc, dec) x6 (30)
 20. (3 sc, dec) x6 (24)
 21. (2 sc, dec) x6 (18)
Switch to café latte and taupe
 22. Sc around (18)
 23. Sc around (18)
 24. (2 sc, inc) x6 (24)
 25. Sc around (24)
 26. (3 sc, inc) x6 (30)
 27. (4 sc, inc) x6 (36)
 28. (5 sc, inc) x6 (42)
Stuff the head firmly. Don't stuff body yet.
 - 29-52. Sc around (42) *24 rounds*
 53. (5 sc, dec) x6 (36)
 54. (4 sc, dec) x6 (30)
 55. (3 sc, dec) x6 (24)
Stuff the body.
 56. (2 sc, dec) x6 (18)
 57. (sc, dec) x6 (12)
 58. Dec x 6 (6)
Finish stuffing the body.
 - 59-68. Sc around (6) *10 rounds*
- Finish off. Leave a tail long enough to sew end of tail opening closed. *Leave the tail unstuffed.*

Ears (make 2)

1. In MR, work 8 sc. DO NOT JOIN. Finish off, leaving a long tail to sew to sides of head.

Attach eyes between rounds 8 and 9, roughly 8 stitches apart.

Attach the nose between rounds 12 and 13, centered between eyes.

Tip: Don't attach the backs until you're satisfied with the placement of the eyes and nose.

I chose to tilt the head forward and attach it to the body so that the otter appears to be looking slightly up and forward. If you choose to do this, the best place to complete this step is after stuffing the head after round 28.

Feet (make 4)

1. In MR, work 6 sc (6)
 2. Inc in each st around (12)
 3. (sc, inc) x6 around (18)
 4. Sc around (18)
 5. Sc around (18)
- Finish off. Leave a long tail for sewing to the body.

Finishing

- ❖ The ears should be slightly higher than the eyes. You want to attach them at a slight angle so that the top of the ear is further forward, and the bottom of the ear is slightly further back. If you attach them straight, they look too much like monkey ears.
- ❖ Attach all four feet to the body as pictured. I find it easiest to attach $\frac{3}{4}$ of the leg before stuffing and finishing the attaching.
- ❖ *Tip! Don't tie off and cut the tail you're using for attachment until you have all of the limbs placed and you're happy with the placement. It makes it easier to fix if you are unhappy.*

