Crochet Teddy Bear – #DIYbandanaheads travel bear

This is an easy and fun pattern in single crochet. The little travel bear only stands 8 inches (20.5 cms) tall; small enough to take in your carry-on luggage. You will need a small amount of DK acrylic yarn (no more than 25 grams) and siliconized polyester stuffing. The crochet stitches are worked with a 4mm or 3.75mm hook (size F). The eyes, nose and mouth are embroidered with a 4 ply cotton yarn using a blunt wool needle. The heart motif is a scrap of variegated DK yarn.

The pattern is free so that as many little bears as possible can be made and given away to give cheer and comfort to anyone in need of encouragement and kindness; children, adults, family, friends, acquaintances, strangers.

This little teddy can be anyone's mascot. I gave one to my father when he was in his mid-nineties and getting increasingly feeble. All my grandchildren have at least one and some of them have a complete set (mum, dad, kid 1, kid2, grandma, grandpa) because they enjoy playing their make-believe games.

Teddies can transport us to a quiet place where we can forget our own story for a while.

Stitch definitions and procedures

Stitch definitions consistent with USA crochet terminology – Note: double crochet in Australian and British patterns is equivalent to single crochet in USA patterns

Loop start	Lay a 6" tail over the hook, front to back. Reach under the hook and grab the tail from the left and bring it across the front of the working yarn to form a loop. Hold this loop open about ⅓-½" in diameter – it takes the place of a 3 chain ring. Hook the working yarn through this loop. You are ready for round 1. Later, when the hat is finished (or after a few rows), pull the tail to tighten the loop and gently draw in the first round of stitches.
Slip stitch	Insert your hook into the relevant stitch, yarn over hook and draw through stitch and loop on hook in one action
Single crochet (SC)	Insert your hook into the relevant stitch, yarn over hook and draw through stitch, yarn over hook and draw through two loops on hook
Increase	Work two stitches in one stitch
Crochet even	Work the row without any increases
Invisible decrease	In the front loops only, insert your hook into the next 2 stitches (one at a time), yarn over hook and draw through these stitches, yarn over hook and draw through the 2 loops on hook.
Embroidery	Eyes and nose – satin stitch; mouth and heart motif – stem stitch (check internet for diagrams)

Worksheet for travel teddy bear

Designed by Julz for DK (8 ply) yarn worked with a 4.00 mm hook.

Round	Instructions	Check
Head	Use a loop start. Refer to table of stitch definitions and procedures, page 1.	
1	Work 1 chain (for height) then work 8 single crochet (SC) in the starting loop.	Do you have 8 SC stitches? Tighten the loop and secure the tail. (use tail as an end of round marker)
2	2 SC stitches in the first stitch of previous round and every stitch to end.	Do you have 16 SC stitches?
3	1 SC in first stitch, 2 SC in next stitch. Repeat this sequence to end of round.	You now have 24 SC stitches?
4	1 SC in first two stitches, 2 SC in next stitch. Continue increasing on every 3rd stitch around.	You now have 32 SC stitches with two stitches between each increase.
5	1 SC in first three stitches, 2 SC in next stitch. Continue increasing on every 4th stitch.	You now have 40 SC stitches with three stitches between each increase.
6-10	Crochet even (a term used for when there are no increases or decreases)	Do you have 40 stitches for each of these rounds?
11	*Work an invisible decrease over the next 2 stitches, SC in next 3 stitches. Repeat from * to end.	Do you have 32 SC stitches?
12	Crochet even.	
13	*Work an invisible decrease over the next 2 stitches, SC in next 2 stitches. Repeat from * to end.	Do you have 24 SC stitches?
14	Crochet even.	
15	*Work an invisible decrease over the next 2 stitches, SC in next stitch. Repeat from * to end.	Do you have 16 SC stitches? Did you slip stitch into first stitch and leave a long tail for sewing up.
Body	Use a loop start.	(tighten loop, secure it and use tail for an end of round marker)
1-4	Work same as head for first 4 rounds.	On the 4th round you will have 32 SC stitches with two stitches between each increase.
5-6	Crochet even.	
7	*Work an invisible decrease over the next 2 stitches, SC in next 2 stitches. Repeat from * to end.	Do you have 24 SC stitches?
8-12	Crochet even.	
13	*Work an invisible decrease over the next 2 stitches, SC in next 4 stitches. Repeat from * to end.	Do you have 20 SC stitches?
14-15	Crochet even.	
16	*Work an invisible decrease over the next 2 stitches, SC in next 3 stitches. Repeat from * to end.	Do you have 16 SC stitches?
17	Crochet even. Slip stitch into first stitch and leave a long tail for sewing up.	Did you slip stitch into first stitch and leave a long tail for sewing up.
Arms	Use a loop start.	(tighten loop, secure it and use tail for end of round marker)
1	Work 1 chain (for height) then work 6 SC in the starting loop.	Do you have 6 SC stitches?
2	1 SC in first stitch, 2 SC in next stitch. Repeat this sequence to end of round.	Do you have 9 SC stitches?
3-12	Crochet even. Make 2 arms.	Did you slip stitch into first stitch and leave a long tail for sewing up?
Legs	Use a loop start.	(tighten loop, secure it and use tail for end of round marker)

1	Work 1 chain (for height) then work 8 SC in the starting loop.	
2	1 SC in first stitch, 2 SC in next stitch. Repeat this sequence to end of round.	Do you have 12 SC stitches?
3-13	Crochet even. Make 2 legs.	Did you slip stitch into first stitch and leave a long tail for sewing up?
Ears	Use a loop start.	(tighten loop, secure it)
1	Work 1 chain (for height) then work 8 SC in the starting loop.	
2	2 SC stitches in the first stitch of previous round and every stitch to end.	Do you have 16 SC stitches?
3	Fold the circle in half and slip stitch the 2 halves together (about 7 stitches). Leave a long tail and with a wool needle, draw thread through base of ear (fold line) to give it a curve.	Did you make 2 ears?
Nose/mouth	Use a loop start.	(tighten loop, secure it)
	Work 1 chain (for height) then work 8 SC in the starting loop.	
	2 SC stitches in the first stitch of previous round and every stitch to end.	Do you have 16 SC stitches? Did you slip stitch into first stitch and leave a long tail for sewing up?
Assembly	Siliconized polyester stuffing is available from craft stores such as Lincraft in Australia and Michaels in USA.	
Ears	Flatten the head and attach ears to the crease on the top of the head (start sewing after the 2nd round from the center top).	
Nose/mouth	Attach the nose disk from the 7th round from the center.	
	With a finer yarn (4 ply) use satin stitch to create a circle for the nose and use stem stitch to create a happy mouth.	
Eyes	With a finer yarn (4 ply) use satin stitch to create little circles. Or use plastic eyes from a craft store.	Plastic eyes are unsafe for babies because they like to chew on them.
Heart motif	Use stem stitch for the heart outline with DK yarn.	
Legs/arms	**Stuff the legs and arms** (not too much) and close the openings. Flatten the body and sew legs to the curved crease on the bottom and arms to the creases on the sides.	Note: arms start at the 2nd round from the top (and finish at the 3rd or 4th) so they open outwards (not downwards) ready for hugging.
Attach head	**Stuff the head and body.** Use one of the tails to sew around the matching 16 stitches. Use the other tail for reinforcement in a few places.	Teddy's ready for spreading joy.

Relaxing in the garden

Climbing trees