AI-DESIGNED PATTERN · NOT PHYSICALLY TESTED



# Cute Hanging Santa Claus

## Easy Christmas Crochet Pattern

*Beginner-friendly · ~11 cm ornament · No-sew-friendly construction*

WELCOME

# Welcome to Your Christmas Make

Start here · What you will create

This pattern teaches you, step by step, how to crochet an adorable miniature **Hanging Santa Claus** — a soft, round little Santa with a fluffy white beard, a floppy red hat, and a sturdy hanging loop. Hang him on your Christmas tree, a window, a door handle, or gift him to someone you love.

You do **not** need any crochet experience. The first section is a complete beginner lesson: how to hold the hook, make your first stitches, and read the pattern. Every round lists its exact stitch count, and every key step has a photograph showing you what your work should look like.

**Finished Santa:** approx. 11–12 cm tall (excluding the hanging loop), about 5 cm wide.

**Skill level:** True beginner. If you can tie a knot, you can start today.

**Time needed:** 3–5 hours for a first-timer; 1½–2½ hours once you know the stitches. Make it in one cozy afternoon or a few relaxed evenings.

**Cost:** roughly the price of 3–4 small skeins of yarn plus a hook (see the materials page). Most makers spend under $10–$15; prices vary by location.

**Techniques used:** magic ring, chain, single crochet, increase, invisible decrease, color change, whipstitch sewing, embroidery. Nothing else — no advanced stitches, I promise.

> ***TIP —*** *Read the pattern **once all the way through** before picking up your hook. Knowing where the project is going makes every step easier.*



*Your finished Santa will measure about 11–12 cm — the perfect miniature tree ornament.*

**A note on testing:** this is an **AI-designed pattern** and has **not** been physically tested by a human crocheter. The stitch math has been carefully verified round by round, but if anything feels off as you work, trust your eyes and adjust — the troubleshooting section at the back will help.

MATERIALS & TOOLS

# Your Shopping List



Everything here is inexpensive and easy to find at any craft store or online. You need only small amounts of each yarn — one Santa uses **less than half a skein** of each color, so leftovers will cover future ornaments.



*All the materials for one Santa, neatly laid out.*

**Yarn** — worsted weight (#4), acrylic (soft, affordable, washable):

- **Red** — about 35 g (body, hat, arms).
- **White** — about 20 g (beard, hat trim, pom-pom, loop).
- **Peach / skin tone** (or soft beige) — about 15 g (head, nose).
- **Black** — about 5 g (boots, embroidered eyes).

**Hook** — 3.25 mm (US D-3). A slightly smaller hook than the yarn label suggests keeps amigurumi stitches tight so no stuffing peeks through.

**Notions:** polyester fiberfill (about 15 g), a yarn/tapestry needle with a large eye, small scissors, a stitch marker (or a scrap of contrasting yarn), and a measuring tape.

**Optional decorations:** a tiny gold jingle bell for the hat tip, a dab of pink blush for rosy cheeks, or a ribbon bow.

> ***TIP — Choosing yarn:*** *any brand works as long as all four colors are the* ***same weight*** *— mixing weights changes the Santa's proportions. Worsted-weight acrylic (like Red Heart Super Saver, Stylecraft Special, or any local equivalent) is ideal: cheap, consistent, and holds its shape. Cotton yarn also works but is less stretchy, so keep your tension relaxed.*

PATTERN LANGUAGE

# Abbreviations & How to Read Rounds



Crochet patterns use abbreviations to stay compact. This pattern uses **US terminology**. Learn these seven abbreviations and you can read every round in this book:

| | |
|---|---|
| **MR** | magic ring — an adjustable starting loop |
| **ch** | chain — the foundation stitch |
| **sc** | single crochet — the main stitch of this project |
| **inc** | increase — work 2 sc into the same stitch |
| **dec** | invisible decrease — join 2 stitches into 1 |
| **sl st** | slip stitch — a flat joining stitch |
| **st(s)** | stitch(es) |
| **rnd** | round — one full circle of stitches |
| **rep** | repeat |
| **FO** | fasten off — secure and cut the yarn |
| **[ ] x6** | repeat what is inside the brackets 6 times |

**How to read a round.** Every instruction in this book follows the same format:

```
Round 3: Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 increase] six times. (18 stitches)
```

- Work in a **spiral**: do not join rounds unless told to. Place a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round so you never lose your place.
- The **bold number at the end** is your checkpoint — count your stitches. If the count matches, you are on track.
- Stitch counts only change on **increase** and **decrease** rounds; plain "sc in each stitch" rounds keep the same count.

> ***TIP —*** *Count out loud as you go, especially on increase rounds. Catching a mistake in the round where it happens saves ten minutes of frogging (rip-it, rip-it!) later.*

BEGINNER LESSON

# Holding the Hook, the Yarn & the Slip Knot



Before a single stitch, get comfortable. Good habits in the first ten minutes save hours of frustration later.

**1. How to hold the crochet hook.** There are two classic grips — try both and keep the one that feels natural:

- **Pencil grip:** hold the hook like a pencil, thumb and index finger pinching the flat thumb-rest, middle finger lightly supporting underneath.
- **Knife grip:** hold the hook like a dinner knife, fist closed over the handle. Many beginners find this steadier.



*The pencil grip: pinch the flat part of the hook, let it rest naturally.*

**2. How to hold and control the yarn.** Your non-hook hand is the tension brake — it feeds yarn smoothly so stitches come out even:

1. Drape the yarn over your index finger, then weave it under your middle finger.
2. Let the working yarn fall across your palm; gently close your ring and pinky fingers over it.
3. The yarn should glide — not drag and not race — as you pull it with the hook.



*Yarn over the index finger, under the middle finger: your built-in tension control.*

**3. How to make a slip knot.** Every project starts here:

1. Make a loop with the yarn, the working end crossing **over** the tail.
2. Reach through the loop, grab the working yarn, and pull a new loop up through.
3. Place the loop on your hook and pull the tail gently to snug it — firm, not strangling. It should slide freely on the hook.



*A slip knot should slide easily on the hook — snug, never tight.*

> ***TIP — Beginner mistake:*** *gripping the hook like a hammer and yanking the yarn. Relax your shoulders, keep stitches loose enough that the hook slides in easily. Tight crocheting causes hand cramps and makes every later step harder.*

BEGINNER LESSON

# Magic Ring, Chain, Single Crochet & Increase



**4. How to create a magic ring (MR).** This adjustable loop starts every round piece in this pattern — and it closes with **no hole**, unlike a chain ring:

1. Drape the yarn tail over your fingers to form a loose loop (an X shape).
2. Insert the hook through the loop, yarn over, and pull up a loop.
3. Chain 1 to lock it. Now work the required stitches **into the ring**, catching both the loop and the tail.
4. When the round is done, pull the tail — the ring cinches shut like a drawstring bag.



*The magic ring: a loose adjustable loop.*



*Six single crochets worked into the ring.*

**5. How to crochet a chain (ch).** Yarn over (wrap yarn front-to-back over the hook), then pull the yarn through the loop on the hook. That is one chain. Repeat for each chain needed.

**6. How to make a single crochet (sc).** The only stitch this Santa needs:

1. Insert the hook into the stitch, **front to back**.
2. Yarn over and pull up a loop — you now have **2 loops** on the hook.
3. Yarn over again and pull through **both** loops. One single crochet made!

**7. How to make an increase (inc).** Simply work **2 single crochets into the same stitch**. Increases make the fabric grow outward — they shape the round belly of Santa's body.



*An increase: two single crochets sharing one stitch below.*

> ***TIP — Beginner mistake:*** *splitting the yarn (the hook goes through the yarn instead of under it). If your stitches look fuzzy or the yarn frays, slow down and watch the hook tip — it should slide under the strand every time.*

BEGINNER LESSON

# Decrease, Color Change, Closing & Fastening Off

Step 2 of 9 · Beginner lesson (3 of 3)

**8. How to make an invisible decrease (dec).** This joins two stitches into one with almost no visible gap — essential for smooth shaping:

1. Insert the hook into the **front loop only** of the next stitch.
2. Insert the hook into the **front loop only** of the following stitch — 3 loops on the hook.
3. Yarn over and pull through the first 2 loops, then yarn over and pull through the last 2 loops. Two stitches became one, invisibly.

**9. How to change yarn colors.** On the last stitch of the old color, stop when 2 loops remain on the hook. Drop the old yarn, yarn over with the **new** color, and pull through. Continue with the new color; weave the tails in later.



*Changing color on the final yarn-over keeps the join invisible.*

**11. How to close the final round.** After the last decrease round (usually 6 stitches remain): cut the yarn leaving a 15 cm tail, thread it on your yarn needle, weave through the **front loops** of the remaining stitches, pull tight like a drawstring, and poke the needle through to the inside.

**12. How to fasten off and hide yarn tails.** Never just knot and cut! Thread the tail on your yarn needle and weave it in and out through the inside of the stitches for 3–4 cm, change direction once, then trim close to the fabric. The tail disappears completely.



*Weaving a tail through the stitches hides it forever.*

> ***TIP — Beginner mistake:*** *a loose magic ring that won't close. The fix is in step 4 above — make sure your first stitches catch* ***both*** *the loop and the tail. If the ring still gapes, thread the tail on a needle and whipstitch the hole shut.*

PART A — SANTA'S BODY

# Crocheting the Round Red Body

Step 3 of 9 · Body (red yarn, 3.25 mm hook)

Santa's body is a soft red egg shape worked from the bottom up. Begin with red yarn. Place a stitch marker in the first stitch of every round — you will thank yourself on round 5.



*The body after the first increase rounds: a neat red dome.*

**Round 1:** Make 6 single crochet stitches into a magic ring. **(6 stitches)**

**Round 2:** Make 2 single crochet stitches into each stitch around. **(12 stitches)**

**Round 3:** Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 increase] six times. **(18 stitches)**

**Round 4:** Repeat [2 single crochet, 1 increase] six times. **(24 stitches)**

**Round 5:** Repeat [3 single crochet, 1 increase] six times. **(30 stitches)**

**Rounds 6–9:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(30 stitches)** — work 4 plain rounds. The sides grow straight here, forming the plump belly.

> ***TIP —*** *If your dome curls into a bowl, your tension is too tight — loosen up slightly. If the edge ripples like a potato chip, you may have added an extra increase; count the round and fix it now.*

PART A — SANTA'S BODY

# Shaping, Stuffing & Closing the Body

Step 3 of 9 · Body continued

Now the decreases sculpt the top of the body. You will stuff it **before** the opening gets too small — this is the technique from lesson step 10.

**Round 10:** Repeat [3 single crochet, 1 decrease] six times. **(24 stitches)**

**Round 11:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(24 stitches)**

**Round 12:** Repeat [2 single crochet, 1 decrease] six times. **(18 stitches)**

**10. How to stuff an amigurumi piece.** Tear the fiberfill into small tufts (never one big clump). Push small pieces in with your finger or the blunt end of your hook. Fill firmly and evenly — the body should feel like a ripe peach: plump and springy, with no lumps and no visible stuffing through the stitches. Add more than you think you need; stuffing compresses.



*Stuff firmly through the round-12 opening, a little at a time.*

**Round 13:** Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 decrease] six times. **(12 stitches)**

**Round 14:** Make 1 decrease in each stitch around. **(6 stitches)**

Fasten off: cut the yarn leaving a 15 cm tail, thread your yarn needle, weave through the front loops of the last 6 stitches, pull tight to close, and weave the tail inside. Set the body aside — it should stand about 6 cm tall.

> ***TIP —*** *Stuffing showing through? Your stitches are too loose or the hook too big. For this Santa the 3.25 mm hook with worsted yarn gives a dense fabric — if you see daylight, go down a hook size on your next piece.*

PART B — SANTA'S HEAD

# Crocheting the Round Face

Step 4 of 9 · Head (peach yarn, 3.25 mm hook)

The head is a simple ball in peach (skin-tone) yarn — same shaping logic as the body, just smaller. The beard will cover the lower half, so the top half is what shows.



*Head round 1: the peach magic ring.*



*The finished head: a smooth even ball.*

**Round 1:** Make 6 single crochet stitches into a magic ring. **(6 stitches)**

**Round 2:** Make 2 single crochet stitches into each stitch around. **(12 stitches)**

**Round 3:** Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 increase] six times. **(18 stitches)**

**Round 4:** Repeat [2 single crochet, 1 increase] six times. **(24 stitches)**

**Rounds 5–7:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(24 stitches)** — work 3 plain rounds.

**Round 8:** Repeat [2 single crochet, 1 decrease] six times. **(18 stitches)**

**Round 9:** Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 decrease] six times. **(12 stitches)**

Stuff the head firmly — a lumpy head shows under the beard, so take a moment here. Then work **Round 10:** make 1 decrease in each stitch around. **(6 stitches)** Fasten off, close the opening, and weave in the tail.

> ***TIP —*** *Roll the stuffed head between your palms like a snowball to even out lumps before closing. A perfectly round head makes the face much cuter.*

PART E — FACE

# Eyes & Nose: Bringing Santa to Life

Step 5 of 9 · Face (black + peach yarn)

Do the face **before** attaching the beard — it is far easier to embroider on a bare head. Work slowly; the face is what makes him adorable.

**Eyes (black yarn, yarn needle).** Cut a 25 cm length of black yarn. Mark two dots with pins first: centered on the face, about 1.2 cm apart, sitting on roughly round 6 of the head. At each mark, embroider one short vertical straight stitch about 4 mm tall (pass the needle up and down through the same two holes 2–3 times for a neat, slightly raised eye). Knot the tails inside the head.



*Embroidering one straight-stitch eye; the second eye waits its turn.*

**Nose (peach or pink yarn).** A tiny ball, sewn centered below and between the eyes:

**Round 1:** Make 6 single crochet stitches into a magic ring. **(6 stitches)**

**Round 2:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(6 stitches)**

**Round 3:** Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 decrease] two times. **(4 stitches)**

Fasten off leaving a 15 cm tail. Thread the tail through the last stitches, pull closed (no stuffing needed — it is tiny), and sew the nose to the face with the tail. It should sit about 1 cm below the eyes.



*The tiny nose ball, ready to sew on.*

> ***TIP — Crooked eyes?*** *Step back an arm's length and squint — asymmetry shows instantly. Pins are your best friend: place, check, adjust, then stitch. It is always easier to move a pin than to unpick embroidery.*

PART D — BEARD & MUSTACHE

# Santa's Fluffy White Beard

Step 6 of 9 · Beard (white yarn, 3.25 mm hook)

The beard is worked in flat **rows** (back and forth, not in the round), wide at the top and tapering to a soft point. The turning chain-1 at each row start does **not** count as a stitch.



*The beard piece: rows taper from 10 stitches to 2.*

**Beard:** Chain 11.

- **Row 1:** Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. **(10 stitches)**
- **Row 2:** Ch 1, turn, dec, 6 sc, dec. **(8 stitches)**
- **Row 3:** Ch 1, turn, 8 sc. **(8 stitches)**
- **Row 4:** Ch 1, turn, dec, 4 sc, dec. **(6 stitches)**
- **Row 5:** Ch 1, turn, 6 sc. **(6 stitches)**
- **Row 6:** Ch 1, turn, dec, 2 sc, dec. **(4 stitches)**
- **Row 7:** Ch 1, turn, dec twice. **(2 stitches)**

Fasten off, leaving a 25 cm tail for sewing.

**Mustache (white):** Chain 7. Starting in the 2nd chain from the hook, work: sl st, sc, sc, sc, sc, sl st. Fasten off, leaving a tail. A tiny curved strip — that is the whole mustache.

**Attaching the beard.** Hold the beard against the face: its wide top edge sits just **below the nose**, covering the lower half of the face. Pin it, check it is centered, then whipstitch along the **top edge only** — the bottom hangs free and fluffy. Sew the mustache centered just above the beard's top edge, tucked under the nose.



*Beard on, stitched along the top edge only — instant Santa!*

***TIP —*** *Uneven beard? Lay it flat and count the stitches in each row against the pattern. One missed decrease makes one side longer. A quick steam from a kettle (don't touch!) relaxes the fibers and evens minor waviness.*

PART C — SANTA'S HAT

# Brim Trim & the Red Cone

Step 7 of 9 · Hat (white + red yarn, 3.25 mm hook)

The hat starts with a white brim, then grows into a long floppy red cone. You will change color once — exactly the technique from the beginner lesson.

**White brim:**

**Round 1:** Make 6 single crochet stitches into a magic ring. **(6 stitches)**

**Round 2:** Make 2 single crochet stitches into each stitch around. **(12 stitches)**

**Round 3:** Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 increase] six times. **(18 stitches)**

**Round 4:** Repeat [2 single crochet, 1 increase] six times. **(24 stitches)**

**Rounds 5–6:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(24 stitches)** — 2 plain rounds. On the **very last yarn-over** of round 6, pull through with **red** yarn to change color.



*The white brim: 24 stitches around.*



*The red cone grows from the brim.*

> ***TIP —*** *Keep the color-change tails long (15 cm). You will weave them into the hat later — short tails are fiddly and can work loose.*

**Red cone:**

**Round 7–9:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(24 stitches)**

**Round 10:** Repeat [2 single crochet, 1 decrease] six times. **(18 stitches)**

Rounds 7–9 are 3 plain rounds; round 10 begins the taper.

PART C — SANTA'S HAT

# Tapering the Tip & the Pom-Pom

Step 7 of 9 · Hat continued

Continue tapering the cone. The decreases come faster now, which makes the tip flop over cutely.

**Round 11–12:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(18 stitches)**

**Round 13:** Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 decrease] six times. **(12 stitches)**

**Round 14:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(12 stitches)**

**Round 15:** Repeat [2 single crochet, 1 decrease] three times. **(9 stitches)**

**Round 16:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(9 stitches)**

**Round 17:** Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 decrease] three times. **(6 stitches)**

**Round 18:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(6 stitches)**

Fasten off leaving a **25 cm tail**. Gently bend the tip to one side and use the tail to tack it in a floppy curve with 2–3 small stitches. Weave in the end.

**Pom-pom (white yarn, no hook needed):**

1. Wrap white yarn around two fingers about **40 times**.
2. Slide the bundle off, and tie a 20 cm strand **tightly** around its middle (double knot!).
3. Cut through all the loops, fluff the ball, and trim it round — about 2.5 cm.
4. Sew it firmly to the hat tip using the tie ends; knot inside and weave in.



*Wrap, tie tightly, cut, trim.*



*The finished hat, tilted jauntily.*

> ***TIP —*** *The #1 pom-pom failure is a loose middle tie — the ball sheds. Tie it as tight as you possibly can, then tie it again. Then sew it on; never rely on glue alone.*

PARTS F & G — ARMS & BOOTS

# Tiny Arms and Optional Boots

Step 8 of 9 · Details (red + black yarn)

These little pieces take minutes each and add so much character. Make **two** of everything on this page.

**Arms (red yarn, make 2):**

**Round 1:** Make 6 single crochet stitches into a magic ring. **(6 stitches)**

**Round 2:** Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 increase] three times. **(9 stitches)**

**Rounds 3–5:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(9 stitches)** — 3 plain rounds.

**Round 6:** Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 decrease] three times. **(6 stitches)**

Fasten off, leaving a 20 cm tail for sewing. Leave the arms **unstuffed** and flatten the top — they sew on like little tabs.



*Two little arms, tails ready for sewing.*



*Two tiny boots (optional but adorable).*

**Boots (black yarn, make 2 — optional):**

**Round 1:** Make 6 single crochet stitches into a magic ring. **(6 stitches)**

**Round 2:** Make 2 single crochet stitches into each stitch around. **(12 stitches)**

**Round 3:** Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(12 stitches)**

**Round 4:** Repeat [1 single crochet, 1 decrease] four times. **(8 stitches)**

Fasten off, leaving a 20 cm tail. Tuck in a tiny pinch of stuffing so the boots hold their shape.



*Arms sewn at body rounds 10–11, angled slightly forward.*

***TIP —*** *Sewing arms: pin both arms first and check they mirror each other before you stitch. Arms sewn at slightly different heights are the classic 'why does he look drunk' mistake — pins prevent it.*

PART H — HANGING LOOP

# A Loop That Will Never Let Go

Step 8 of 9 · Hanging loop (white or red yarn)

The loop carries the whole ornament's weight, so we anchor it **twice**: chained into the hat tip and sewn through several stitches. Use white yarn for a classic look, or red to match the hat.

1. Join yarn to the very tip of the hat with a slip stitch.
2. Chain **18** — keep the chains even, not too tight.
3. Slip stitch back into the **same stitch** at the hat tip, forming a ring.
4. Fasten off. Thread each tail on your yarn needle and weave it firmly through several hat stitches in different directions.
5. **Tug-test:** pull the loop firmly. If anything shifts, sew it again. This loop holds your Santa for years.



*Chaining the 18-stitch loop.*



*Sewn through the hat tip — twice anchored.*

> ***TIP — Loose hanging loop?*** *The fix is always more anchoring: weave the tails through at least 6–8 stitches in a zigzag, not a straight line. A zigzag can't pull out; a straight line can.*

PART I — ASSEMBLY

# Putting Santa Together

Step 9 of 9 · Final assembly

Lay out every finished piece first — body, head with face and beard, hat with pom-pom, two arms, two boots, loop attached. Assembly is pure whipstitch sewing with your yarn needle and matching yarn.



*The full cast, ready for assembly.*

1. Sew the **head** to the top center of the body: whipstitch around the head's bottom round, catching body stitches as you go. Knot inside.
2. **Beard:** positioned in Part D — whipstitch the top edge only.
3. **Mustache:** centered just above the beard's top edge.
4. **Nose:** centered above the mustache.
5. **Eyes:** already embroidered (Part E) — double-check symmetry now.
6. **Arms:** one per side at body rounds 10–11, angled slightly forward.
7. **Boots:** under the front bottom of the body.
8. **Hat:** place tilted on the head; whipstitch the white brim edge to the head all the way around.
9. **Loop:** already at the hat tip (Part H) — tug-test once more.

Weave in **every** remaining tail using the technique from the beginner lesson. Then give Santa a final fluff: straighten the beard, perk up the pom-pom, and tilt the hat just so.

> ***TIP —*** *Assembly order matters:* ***face before beard, beard before hat****. Sewing the hat on first and then trying to embroider eyes underneath it is a rite of passage you can skip.*

FIX-IT GUIDE

# Common Beginner Problems & Fixes

Finishing · Troubleshooting

Every crocheter meets these gremlins. Here is how to defeat each one:

**Uneven stitches.** Usually a tension issue — some stitches yanked tight, others loose. Slow down, keep the yarn feed steady (lesson step 2), and aim for stitches the hook slides through easily.

**Loose magic ring.** The starting hole gapes open. Make sure the first round catches both the loop and the tail; pull the tail firmly after round 1. Last resort: whipstitch the hole closed with the tail.

**Incorrect stitch counts.** The bold number at each round's end didn't match. Don't push on hoping it fixes itself — it won't. Count back to find the extra or missing stitch; most often it is a forgotten increase or an accidental one in the first stitch.

**Stuffing showing through gaps.** Stitches too loose for the yarn. Use the 3.25 mm hook (not a bigger one), keep gentle even tension, and stuff with small tufts rather than stretching the fabric over one big clump.

**Crooked eyes.** Pin first, stitch second. View from arm's length before committing — and remember, perfectly identical eyes look less handmade-charming than *nearly* identical ones.

**Uneven beard.** Count rows against the pattern; one missed decrease tilts it. Minor waviness relaxes with a little steam held at a distance (never touch the iron to acrylic — it melts).

**Loose hanging loop.** Re-anchor in a zigzag through 6–8 stitches (Part H). If the chains themselves stretched, remake the loop slightly tighter.

> ***TIP —*** *When in doubt,* ***frog it*** *(pull out) back to the last correct round. Yarn is forgiving; a mistake you fix in two minutes beats a wonky Santa you notice forever.*

AFTER THE LAST STITCH

# Care, Time & Cost



**Crochet care instructions.** Your Santa is hardy, but a little care keeps him handsome for years:

- **Cleaning:** spot-clean with a damp cloth and mild soap. If he needs a full wash, hand-wash cold, gently squeeze (never wring), reshape, and air-dry flat.
- **Storage:** after the holidays, store in a breathable cotton bag or box with tissue paper — not a sealed plastic bag, which traps moisture. Keep the pom-pom fluffed, not squashed.
- **Repairs:** a loose thread? Weave it back in with your yarn needle. A flat beard? A little steam revives it.

**Estimated completion time.** First Santa: **3–5 hours** at a relaxed beginner pace (including the lesson pages). Second Santa: **1½–2½ hours** — the stitches become muscle memory fast.

**Difficulty rating: ★■■■■ — True Beginner.** If this is your very first crochet project ever, you picked well: one stitch type, small pieces that finish fast, and no shaping harder than 'two into one'.

**Approximate material cost:** under **$10–$15** for one Santa if you own a hook already (3–4 small skeins + fiberfill). Buying a hook adds a few dollars. Prices vary by location — and leftovers make Santas #2, #3, and #4 nearly free.

> ***TIP —*** *Make a second Santa right away while the pattern is fresh in your fingers. The second one always comes out cuter — and now you have a gift for someone.*

GALLERY

# Meet Your Santa

Finishing · The reveal

Front, side, and on the tree — here he is in all his handmade glory. Compare your Santa at each angle; small differences are the signature of handmade, not flaws.



*Front view: beard, nose, button eyes.*



*Side view: floppy hat, tiny boots.*



*Home at last: your Santa hanging among the lights.*

GALLERY

# Hang Him High & Gift Ideas

Finishing · Ideas

Hang him on the tree, a wreath, a stocking, a gift bag, or a rear-view mirror. He also makes a wonderful **gift tag that becomes the gift** — tie him to a present with the recipient's name on a little card.

**Make it a set:** crochet three Santas in slightly different hat tilts and hang them as a garland on a 60 cm ribbon. Or scale the pattern: use chunky yarn and a 5 mm hook for a big Santa, or fingering yarn and a 2 mm hook for a tiny one — the stitch counts stay exactly the same.

> ***TIP —*** *Photograph your Santa in natural daylight near a window — it shows the true yarn colors and makes every stitch look its best for sharing with friends.*

QUICK REFERENCE

# Printable Pattern Summary

Tear-out · All rounds at a glance

The whole pattern on two pages — print this section and keep it by your chair. Abbreviations: MR, ch, sc, inc (2 sc in same st), dec (invisible dec), sl st, FO.

**PART A — BODY (red).** R1: 6 sc in MR (6) · R2: inc x6 (12) · R3: [sc, inc] x6 (18) · R4: [2 sc, inc] x6 (24) · R5: [3 sc, inc] x6 (30) · R6–9: sc around (30) · R10: [3 sc, dec] x6 (24) · R11: sc around (24) · R12: [2 sc, dec] x6 (18), stuff · R13: [sc, dec] x6 (12) · R14: dec x6 (6), FO, close.

**PART B — HEAD (peach).** R1: 6 sc in MR (6) · R2: inc x6 (12) · R3: [sc, inc] x6 (18) · R4: [2 sc, inc] x6 (24) · R5–7: sc around (24) · R8: [2 sc, dec] x6 (18) · R9: [sc, dec] x6 (12), stuff · R10: dec x6 (6), FO, close.

**PART C — HAT (white brim → red cone).** R1: 6 sc in MR (6) · R2: inc x6 (12) · R3: [sc, inc] x6 (18) · R4: [2 sc, inc] x6 (24) · R5–6: sc around (24), change to red on last yo of R6 · R7–9: sc around (24) · R10: [2 sc, dec] x6 (18) · R11–12: sc around (18) · R13: [sc, dec] x6 (12) · R14: sc around (12) · R15: [2 sc, dec] x3 (9) · R16: sc around (9) · R17: [sc, dec] x3 (6) · R18: sc around (6), FO (25 cm tail), bend tip & tack.

**Pom-pom (white):** wrap x40 around two fingers, tie middle tightly (double knot), cut loops, trim to ~2.5 cm ball, sew to hat tip.

**PART D — BEARD (white, rows; ch-1 turn doesn't count).** Ch 11 · Row 1: sc across from 2nd ch (10) · Row 2: dec, 6 sc, dec (8) · Row 3: 8 sc (8) · Row 4: dec, 4 sc, dec (6) · Row 5: 6 sc (6) · Row 6: dec, 2 sc, dec (4) · Row 7: dec x2 (2), FO (25 cm tail).

**Mustache (white):** ch 7; in 2nd ch from hook: sl st, sc, sc, sc, sc, sl st. FO.

QUICK REFERENCE

# Summary, continued

Tear-out · All rounds at a glance

**PART E — NOSE (peach/pink).** R1: 6 sc in MR (6) · R2: sc around (6) · R3: [sc, dec] x2 (4), FO, close, leave tail. **Eyes:** embroider two 4 mm vertical straight stitches in black, 1.2 cm apart, above nose.

**PART F — ARMS (red, make 2).** R1: 6 sc in MR (6) · R2: [sc, inc] x3 (9) · R3–5: sc around (9) · R6: [sc, dec] x3 (6), FO (20 cm tail). Leave unstuffed.

**PART G — BOOTS (black, make 2, optional).** R1: 6 sc in MR (6) · R2: inc x6 (12) · R3: sc around (12) · R4: [sc, dec] x4 (8), FO (20 cm tail). Pinch of stuffing.

**PART H — LOOP (white/red).** Sl st join at hat tip, ch 18, sl st into same st to form ring, FO; weave tails zigzag through 6–8 hat stitches. Tug-test.

**PART I — ASSEMBLY.** 1) Head to body top center · 2) Beard (top edge only) below nose · 3) Mustache above beard · 4) Nose above mustache · 5) Eyes checked · 6) Arms at body R10–11 · 7) Boots under front · 8) Hat tilted, brim whipstitched to head · 9) Loop tug-tested. Weave in all tails.

**Yarn per Santa:** red ~35 g · white ~20 g · peach ~15 g · black ~5 g · fiberfill ~15 g. **Hook:** 3.25 mm. **Size:** ~11–12 cm excl. loop.

PROJECT NOTES

# Final Tips & Accuracy Checklist

Finishing · Before you share

**Final tips from the designer:**

- Block the beard lightly with steam if it curls — hold the steamer 10 cm away, never touch acrylic with heat.
- A tiny dot of pink blush (cosmetic) on the cheeks, applied with a cotton swab, gives Santa a jolly glow. Set with a spritz of hairspray from 30 cm.
- Sew a small gold bell to the hat tip *under* the pom-pom for a Santa that jingles.
- Weave in ends as you finish each piece — a 'tails session' at the end is nobody's idea of fun.
- Sign your work: embroider your initials and the year inside the hat brim. Future you will love finding them.

**Accuracy checklist — what still needs physical testing.** The stitch math in this pattern has been verified round by round (every increase/decrease lands on its stated count, and every piece is constructible as written). It has **not** been crocheted by a human tester. Before calling it fully proven, check:

- Beard drape and coverage on the real 24-stitch head.
- Hat tilt stability once the brim is sewn to the head.
- Eye spacing (1.2 cm) at real scale — adjust to taste.
- Stuffing firmness vs. stitch gaps with your personal tension.
- Hanging-loop strength over days of hanging (tug-test, then trust).
- Arm angle when sewn — confirm they sit naturally.
- Overall height landing in the 11–12 cm target at your gauge.

If you test this pattern, note any adjustments and share them — patterns get better every time a real crocheter works them.

. . .

*Merry crocheting — and may your Santa hang straight and your pom-pom stay fluffy.*

*Crochet Corner · Christmas Collection*