GUS THE GHOST

A Beginner Crochet Pattern

LARGE-PRINT EDITION



One simple shape. Fourteen rounds. Zero sewing.

Finished size: about 6½–7 inches tall · Time: one cozy evening (2–3 hours)

ABOUT THIS PATTERN

Meet Gus!

An honest note before you begin: Gus is an **AI-designed pattern** and has **not been physically tested** by human hands yet. Every stitch count has been verified with arithmetic, but yarn is not math. If a count ever looks off, **trust your eyes** — and let us know so we can fix the guide.

Gus is one simple shape: a **tube of stitches worked from the top down**, finished with a wavy hem. There is no sewing together of parts. If you can make a single crochet, you can make Gus.

This is the **large-print edition** — every word is set big and clear, with one photograph for each step, so you can follow along comfortably in your favorite chair.

TIP — Gus makes a wonderful Halloween shelf-sitter — or a sweet handmade gift for a grandchild. Boo!

YOUR PROJECT

Gus at a Glance

Here is the whole journey on one page. Fourteen rounds, then a face — that is all there is to it.

1. **Rounds 1–4 — The crown.** You grow a flat circle from 6 stitches to 24. This becomes the top of Gus's head.
2. **Rounds 5–13 — The body.** Nine easy rounds with no increases at all. Just one single crochet in every stitch. The circle becomes a tube.
3. **Round 14 — The wavy hem.** Six little scallops around the bottom edge. This is what makes Gus look like a proper ghost.
4. **The face.** Two eyes, one smile, and optional pink cheeks. Then a good stuffing, and Gus is done.

TIP — Read **one round at a time**. Finish the round, check your stitch count, then turn the page. You have got this.

MATERIALS

What You Need



Everything for Gus fits in one small basket.

- **Yarn:** super bulky weight (#6), white — about 70 grams (roughly 60–75 yards). One small skein is plenty.
- **Hook:** 8 mm (US L-11). A big hook is easy on the hands.
- **Polyester fiberfill** for stuffing — a small handful.
- **Two 12 mm safety eyes** with washers. *Alternative:* embroider the eyes with black yarn instead.

MATERIALS, CONTINUED

What You Need

- **Scraps of black and pink yarn** for the face (any weight you have).
- **Stitch marker** — a small safety pin or a paperclip works perfectly.
- **Tapestry needle** (large eye) and **scissors**.

TIP — White yarn on white yarn is tricky to see. Lay a **dark cloth on your lap** so the stitches stand out.

REFERENCE

Abbreviations

Gus uses **US crochet terms** and only a handful of abbreviations:

MR	Magic ring
ch	Chain
sl st	Slip stitch
sc	Single crochet
dc	Double crochet
inc	Increase — work 2 sc in the same stitch
st / sts	Stitch / stitches
R	Round

Good news: Gus does **not** use half double crochet (hdc) or decreases (dec). If those sound scary, you can relax — they are not in this pattern.

BEFORE YOU START

Four Things to Know

1. Work in a **continuous spiral** — do not join with a slip stitch at the end of each round (until the hem).

2. Place your **stitch marker in the first stitch of every round**, and move it up as you go. This is how you know where each round begins.

3. **Gauge is not critical** for this project. Your ghost may come out a little taller or shorter — that is completely fine.

4. **Count out loud.** After each increase round, count your stitches before moving on. Catching a mistake in R2 is much easier than in R10.

TIP — Rest your hands. Set the work down and open and close your fists every 20 minutes. Crochet is a marathon, not a sprint.

REFRESHER

The Stitches You Need

Gus uses just three stitches. A quick reminder of each:

Single crochet (sc)

Insert the hook into the stitch, yarn over, and pull up a loop (two loops on the hook). Yarn over again and pull through both loops. That is one single crochet — the stitch that builds **all of Gus's body**.

Double crochet (dc)

Yarn over first, then insert the hook. Pull up a loop (three loops on the hook). Yarn over, pull through two loops; yarn over, pull through the last two. Taller than a single crochet — Gus uses it only for the **wavy hem**.

Slip stitch (sl st)

Insert the hook, yarn over, and pull straight through **everything** in one motion. Short and flat — it pins each hem scallop down.

GETTING STARTED

Starting the Ring

Pick whichever start is easier for you — both work fine:

Option A: the magic ring

Make a magic ring and work Round 1 into it. When the round is done, pull the tail gently and the center cinches shut — no hole at the top of Gus's head.

Option B: no magic ring

Chain 2, then work Round 1 into the 2nd chain from the hook. There will be a tiny hole at the top — you can cinch it closed with the yarn tail.



The magic ring: an adjustable loop that pulls shut.

THE BODY — TOP DOWN

Round 1



Working Round 1 into the ring — six little stitches.

Round 1

Work **6 single crochet** into the ring (magic ring or 2nd chain from the hook).

✔ **End of round: 6 stitches**

Gently pull the ring closed (or cinch the tail) so **no hole shows** at the top.

TIP — Place your stitch marker in that **first stitch** now. Move it up at the start of every round from here on.

THE BODY — TOP DOWN

Round 2



After Round 2: 12 stitches, a small flat circle.

Round 2

Increase in each stitch around — work 2 sc into every stitch.

✔ **End of round: 12 stitches**

You worked 6 stitches, and each one became 2. **6 × 2 = 12.**

TIP — Count now. Twelve stitches? Perfect — move the marker up and keep going.

THE BODY — TOP DOWN

Round 3



Your piece after Round 2 — Round 3 grows it from 12 to 18.

Round 3

[sc in next st, inc in next st] × 6 — one single crochet, then an increase, repeated 6 times around.

✔ **End of round: 18 stitches**

Each repeat works over 2 stitches and makes 3. **6 repeats × 3 = 18.**

TIP — Say the rhythm out loud as you go: *“single, increase… single, increase…”* Six times, and you are done.

THE BODY — TOP DOWN

Round 4



After Round 4: 24 stitches — the widest point of Gus.

Round 4

[sc in next 2 sts, inc in next st] × 6 — two single crochets, then an increase, repeated 6 times around.

✔ **End of round: 24 stitches**

Each repeat works over 3 stitches and makes 4. **6 repeats × 4 = 24.**

Your circle should lie **flat**. That flat disc is the top of Gus's head — from here the sides grow straight down.

THE BODY — TOP DOWN

Rounds 5–13: The Body Tube



The tube grows: nine straight rounds, no shaping.

Rounds 5–13

sc in each st around — one single crochet in every stitch. No increases, no decreases.

✔ **End of round: 24 stitches**

Work this round **9 times total** (rounds 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13). Every one of these rounds ends with **24 stitches**.

TIP — Checkpoint: count your stitches at the end of R5. If you have 24, you are set for all 9 rounds — just keep the spiral going.

THE BODY — TOP DOWN

Staying on Track

Nine rounds of the same stitch is wonderfully relaxing — and the perfect place for a wandering mind to skip a stitch. Two habits keep you safe:

1. **Move the marker every round.** It is the cheapest insurance in crochet. No marker, no way to find round 1 again.
2. **Count every few rounds.** A quick count to 24 takes ten seconds and catches a slip before it becomes a frogging session.

The tube will start to curl into a cup shape — that is exactly right. You are building the walls of Gus's body.

Sit near a **bright lamp** for these rounds. White stitches on white yarn hide in dim light — good light makes every stitch easy to find.

STUFFING

Stuffing Gus



Small handfuls of fiberfill, pushed all the way to the top.

Push the fiberfill in through the **open bottom** of the tube. Fill it **evenly all the way to the top** of the head. Gus should feel **plump, not lumpy**.

TIP — If Gus leans, the stuffing is probably uneven. Push a little more fiberfill into the thin spot. Firm, even stuffing is the whole secret.

You can stuff now or after the face — the bottom stays open either way. Many crocheters stuff now so Gus holds his shape while they embroider.

THE WAVY HEM

Round 14: The Scallops



Six tall scallops — the signature ghost hem.

Round 14

[skip 1 st, 5 dc in next st, skip 1 st, sl st in next st] × 6

✔ **End of round: 6 scallops stitches**

Six tall scallops make the signature ghost hem. Take it **one repeat at a time** — the four little steps are on the next page.

THE WAVY HEM

Round 14, Step by Step

1. **Skip 1 stitch** (do nothing in it).
2. Work **5 double crochet** all into the next stitch — this makes one tall scallop.
3. **Skip 1 stitch.**
4. **Slip stitch** in the next stitch — this pins the scallop down.

Repeat those four steps **6 times total**. You will finish back where you started.

Hem Check & Fasten Off

Each repeat uses up exactly 4 stitches: 1 skipped + 1 for the fan + 1 skipped + 1 for the slip stitch. **6 repeats × 4 = 24** — that is every stitch of the round used up evenly.

Fasten off, leaving a 4-inch tail, and weave the tail in with your tapestry needle. The wavy hem lets Gus **sit flat on a table** — the open bottom faces down, so it does not show.

TIP — If the hem ripples too much, check that you skipped exactly 1 stitch before and after each 5-dc fan, and that you worked the slip stitch into the *next* stitch — not two stitches over. Counting fixes almost every ripple.

PUTTING THE FACE ON

First, Look at Gus



The blank canvas — a plump white ghost, ready for a face.

Do the face **after the hem is finished**, so you can see the whole ghost. Turn Gus so the smoothest side faces you — that is the front.

TIP — Pin the eyes in place first and **step back** before you commit. Faces are easy to adjust with pins and hard to adjust with stitches.

PUTTING THE FACE ON

The Eyes



Eyes between Rounds 9 and 10, about 5 stitches apart.

Safety eyes: place the two eyes **between R9 and R10** of the body — about **5 stitches apart**. Push each eye post through a stitch and press the washer on from the inside. They should sit on the same side of the ghost (the “front”).

Safer alternative (recommended for grandchildren): thread black yarn on your tapestry needle and stitch two small vertical lines, about 4 stitches tall, in the same spots. Tie off inside. **No small parts** — safer if little grandchildren will be cuddling Gus.

PUTTING THE FACE ON

Smile & Cheeks



One soft arc for the smile — keep it simple.

The smile

With black yarn, stitch a **gentle upward curve** below and between the eyes, about 4 stitches wide. Keep it simple — one soft arc.

The cheeks (optional)

Make a small **French knot** on each side with pink yarn — or sew on two tiny circles of pink felt.

Step back and look at Gus. **He is adorable.**

FINISHING

Gus Is Done!



Finished Gus, front view — plump, smiling, ready for Halloween.

1. **Stuff firmly** if you have not yet — plump, not lumpy, filled to the top of the head.

2. Set Gus on the table. The wavy hem lets him **sit flat**; the open bottom faces down and does not show.

3. **Weave in any remaining yarn tails** with the tapestry needle.

4. If any stitch looks loose, **gently tug the tail** — that is all the fixing most ghosts need.

SENIOR-FRIENDLY TIPS

Tips, Part 1

1. **Count out loud.** After each increase round, count your stitches before moving on. Catching a mistake in R2 is much easier than in R10.

2. **Light it up.** White yarn on white yarn is tricky to see. Sit near a bright lamp, and lay dark fabric on your lap so the stitches stand out.

3. **Rest your hands.** Set the work down and open and close your fists every 20 minutes. Crochet is a marathon, not a sprint.

SENIOR-FRIENDLY TIPS

Tips, Part 2

1. **Use the marker every round.** It is the cheapest insurance in crochet. No marker, no way to find round 1 again.

2. **If the hem ripples too much,** check that you skipped exactly 1 stitch before and after each 5-dc fan, and that you worked the slip stitch into the *next* stitch — not two stitches over. Counting fixes almost every ripple.

3. **If the ghost leans,** the stuffing is probably uneven. Push a little more fiberfill into the thin spot. Firm, even stuffing is the whole secret.

HELP

Troubleshooting

- **Hole at the top of the head:** pull the magic-ring tail tighter, or cinch the Option B tail closed and weave it in well.
- **Lost your place in the spiral:** count back from your marker — it marks the first stitch of the current round.
- **Stitch count is off by one:** recount slowly with your finger in each stitch. Nine times in ten it is a miscount, not a mistake.
- **Tube looks more like a bowl:** you may have missed the switch from increases to straight rounds at R5. Check R4 = 24, then sc around.
- **Hem scallops uneven:** recount the 4-stitch rhythm — skip 1, fan in 1, skip 1, slip stitch in 1.
- **Can't see the white stitches:** brighter lamp, dark lap cloth, and take breaks — tired eyes miss stitches.

MAKE IT YOURS

Fun Variations



Gus, ready for his close-up — every ghost has its own personality.

The core pattern stays exactly the same — these are simple twists to try once you have made your first Gus:

- **Ghost garland:** make three to five Guses and string them on a length of yarn for a Halloween mantel decoration.
- **Dusk ghost:** try pale gray or lavender bulky yarn instead of white.
- **Hanging ornament:** thread a loop of yarn through the top stitches for a tree or window hanger.
- **New expressions:** a sleepy smile, surprised round eyes, or rosy cheeks change Gus's whole mood.
- **Give him a hat:** a tiny witch hat on top turns Gus into a Halloween showpiece.

FINISHED!

Display & Care

- **Display:** Gus sits flat on his wavy hem — perfect on a shelf, mantel, or Halloween table. Group him with pumpkins for instant spooky-season charm.
- **Cleaning:** spot-clean with a damp cloth and let air-dry. Do not machine wash.
- **Storage:** keep Gus in a dry spot; refluff the stuffing if he gets squashed in a box.
- **Safety:** with safety eyes, Gus is decoration rather than a toy for very small children. The embroidered-eye version is the cuddly one.

Made a Gus you love? **Tell us how it went** — especially if any round felt off. Your feedback makes the next pattern better.

REFERENCE

Stitch-Count Verification

Every count below is derived from the round before it. Nothing is guessed:

R1	Magic ring, 6 sc worked into it	**6**
R2	6 increases: 6 + 6	**12**
R3	[1 sc, 1 inc] × 6: 6 × 3	**18**
R4	[2 sc, 1 inc] × 6: 6 × 4	**24**
R5–R13	Straight sc, 24 in → 24 out, all 9 rounds	**24**
R14	[skip 1, fan, skip 1, sl st] × 6: 6 × 4 = 24	**6 scallops**

Face placement check: 24 stitches around the body; eyes 5 stitches apart sit roughly one-fifth of the way around — centered on the front.

YOU DID IT!

Happy Halloween!

A whole ghost — fourteen rounds, six scallops, one smile — made by **your hands**. Set Gus where you will see him every day and enjoy him.

Gus the Ghost · Beginner · About 6½–7 in tall · 2–3 hours · US terms · Large-print edition
AI-designed — not physically tested. Stitch counts verified mathematically.
More free patterns at **seniorshieldtools.com/fun-corner**

Happy crocheting!