MY LITTLE PUMPKIN

A Cute & Easy Crochet Keychain Pattern for Beginners



A complete step-by-step illustrated guide for absolute beginners

Please note: This is an **AI-designed pattern** and has **not been physically tested**. Stitch counts have been verified mathematically. We recommend crocheting a sample before gifting or selling finished items.

WELCOME

Let's Crochet a Little Pumpkin!

Welcome, friend! If you have never held a crochet hook before, you are in exactly the right place. This guide will take you from your very first slip knot to a finished miniature pumpkin keychain — one tiny, friendly step at a time.

Every step has a **photograph** showing you exactly what your work should look like. Every round ends with a **stitch count** so you can check yourself. And every lesson starts from zero — no experience assumed, nothing skipped.

What You Will Make

- A **miniature 3D pumpkin**, about 5–7 cm tall — the perfect bag-charm size.
- Gently defined **vertical ridges** like a real pumpkin.
- A short **green stem** and a sturdy **keyring**, ready to clip on.
- Optional: a cute embroidered **smiling face** for Halloween.

How Long Will It Take?

About **45–90 minutes** if you already know the basic stitches. If this is your very first project, give yourself a relaxed afternoon — there is no rush, and ripping back a round is part of learning, not failing.

> ***TIP —*** *Put on some music, make a cup of tea, and enjoy the process. Crochet is supposed to be relaxing!*

How This Guide Works

Work through the pages **in order**. Pages 5–7 teach you the five skills you need. Pages 8–17 are the pumpkin itself. Page 19 has the whole pattern on one page for printing. Let's begin!

MATERIALS

What You Need



Everything you need, laid out and ready.

Required

- **Orange DK-weight yarn** (15–25 g) — cotton or acrylic. This is your pumpkin body. DK is a medium-light yarn, easy to see and hold.
- **Green DK-weight yarn** (3–5 g) — for the stem and hanging loop. Any green you like.
- **3.0 mm crochet hook** — a smaller hook makes tight, dense stitches with no gaps for the stuffing to peek through.
- **Polyester fiberfill** (5–10 g) — the soft stuffing inside. Toy stuffing from any craft store works.
- **Blunt yarn needle** — a large-eye needle with a dull tip for sewing and weaving in ends safely.
- **Small scissors** — for cutting yarn.
- **Stitch marker** — clips onto a stitch so you never lose your place in spiral rounds. A safety pin or paperclip works too.
- **Metal split keyring** — one small ring; this is what makes it a keychain.

Optional

- **Black embroidery thread** — for the optional smiling face.
- **Short keychain chain** — if you want the pumpkin to dangle a little lower.
- **Small ribbon** — pretty gift wrapping if this pumpkin is for someone special.

TIP — *Yarn thickness and how tightly you crochet change the finished size. Tighter stitches = smaller, denser pumpkin. Looser = bigger and softer. Both are fine!*

REFERENCE

Abbreviations & How to Read the Pattern

Crochet patterns use short codes. Here is every one used in this guide — all in **US crochet terminology**.

MR	Magic Ring — an adjustable starting loop
SC	Single Crochet — the only stitch in this project
INC	Increase — 2 SC worked into the same stitch
DEC	Invisible Decrease — 2 stitches joined into 1, neatly
ST / STS	Stitch / Stitches
CH	Chain
SL ST	Slip Stitch
FO	Fasten Off — finish and cut the yarn

How to read a round

A round written as **(1 SC, INC) × 6** means: *make one single crochet, then make an increase (two single crochets into the next stitch). Repeat that whole sequence 6 times.*

At the end of every round you will see the total in bold, like **(18 sts)**. Count your stitches — if your number matches, you are doing it right!

TIP — *If your count is off by one or two, don't panic. Count again slowly, marking each stitch with your finger. Most mistakes are just miscounts.*

LESSON 1 & 2

Holding the Hook and Yarn



The pencil grip: relaxed, controlled, comfortable.

How to hold the hook

1. Hold the crochet hook like a pencil — between your thumb and first two fingers, a little above the middle of the hook.
2. Rest the flat thumb-grip part against your finger; it stops the hook twisting.
3. Keep your wrist relaxed. A death-grip makes tight, painful stitches.

How to hold the yarn (tension)

1. Drape the yarn over your left index finger (right finger if left-handed), then weave it under the middle finger and over the ring finger.
2. Let the yarn glide — your finger is a brake, not a clamp.
3. The yarn should feed smoothly as you pull each stitch through.

TIP — Common mistake: *yanking the yarn tight after every stitch.* ***Fix:*** *aim for stitches that slide easily on the hook — snug, not strangled.*

LESSON 3 & 4

Slip Knot and Magic Ring



The slip knot: your starting loop.

Lesson 3 — The slip knot

1. Make a loop with the yarn, the tail crossing behind.

2. Reach through the loop and pull a fold of yarn back through.

3. Slip it onto your hook and pull the tail gently — the loop should hug the hook but still slide.



The magic ring: an adjustable starting loop.

Lesson 4 — The magic ring (MR)

1. Wrap the yarn twice around your finger to make a loose ring.
2. Insert the hook, pull up a loop, chain 1 to secure.
3. Work your Round 1 stitches *into* the ring.
4. Pull the tail — the ring cinches shut like a drawstring bag. Magic!

> ***TIP —*** ***Common mistake:*** *the ring won't close.* ***Fix:*** *you probably worked over the tail instead of the ring — unwrap and make sure the tail is the loose end you pull.*

LESSON 5, 6 & 7

The Three Stitches of This Project

This entire pumpkin uses **one stitch** (single crochet) plus its two shaping friends: increase and decrease. Learn these three and you can make the whole thing.

Lesson 5 — Single crochet (SC)

1. Insert the hook into the stitch, yarn over, pull up a loop (2 loops on hook).
2. Yarn over again, pull through both loops. Done — that's one SC!

Lesson 6 — Increase (INC)

Work **2 SC into the same stitch**. That's it. Increases make your circle grow wider.

Lesson 7 — Invisible decrease (DEC)



The invisible decrease: through front loops only.

1. Insert the hook through the *front loop only* of the next stitch.
2. Without yarning over, insert through the front loop only of the following stitch (3 loops on hook).
3. Yarn over, pull through the first two loops, yarn over, pull through the last two. Two stitches have become one — with no visible gap.

TIP — Common mistake: *decreases that leave holes.* ***Fix:*** *always use the invisible decrease (front loops only) — it hides the join completely.*

Lessons 8–14 — quickfire

- **Spiral rounds:** just keep going round and round — no joining, no turning. Your stitch marker moves up each round so you know where rounds begin.

- **Counting:** each 'V' on the edge is one stitch. Count after every round and compare with the number in bold.
- **Stuffing:** add small tufts at a time and fluff them out. Under-stuffed beats over-stuffed — you can always add more.
- **Fastening off:** cut the yarn, pull the tail all the way through the last loop, tug snug.
- **Yarn needle:** thread it like a sewing needle; its blunt tip slides between stitches without splitting yarn.
- **Sewing pieces:** whipstitch — in and out around the edge, pulling gently so the seam disappears.
- **Hanging loop:** anchor through several stitches (never just one!) so it can't pull free.

PUMPKIN BODY

Rounds 1–3: The Base

Time to crochet! Work in **continuous spiral rounds** with orange yarn. Move your stitch marker into the first stitch of every new round.



Round 1: six little stitches in the magic ring.

Round 1: MR, 6 SC into the ring. Pull the tail to close. **(6 sts)**



Round 2: increasing — two stitches into every stitch.

Round 2: INC in every stitch × 6. **(12 sts)**



Round 3: your circle is growing flat and even.

Round 3: (1 SC, INC) × 6. **(18 sts)**

> ***TIP —*** *Your circle should lie **flat**. If the edges curl up like a bowl already, your stitches are too tight — loosen your tension a touch.*

PUMPKIN BODY

Rounds 4–6: Growing Wide

Keep increasing one more plain stitch between increases each round. This is the widest part of your pumpkin.



Round 4: 24 stitches.

Round 4: (2 SC, INC) × 6. **(24 sts)**



Round 5: 30 stitches.

Round 5: (3 SC, INC) × 6. **(30 sts)**



Round 6: 36 stitches — the widest point. Well done!

Round 6: (4 SC, INC) × 6. **(36 sts)**

TIP — Common mistake: *a hexagon instead of a circle.* ***Fix:*** *stagger your increases — start some rounds with half the plain stitches (e.g. 2 SC, INC, then (4 SC, INC) × 5, then 2 SC). Totally optional; hexagons still make fine pumpkins!*

PUMPKIN BODY

Rounds 7–12: Building the Walls

Now the easy part: **no more increases**. One SC in every stitch, six rounds straight. Your flat circle will naturally curl up into a bowl, then a rounded cup.



The circle starts curving into a bowl — this is correct!

Rounds 7–12: 1 SC in every stitch. **(36 sts)**



After Round 12: a deep rounded cup. Half a pumpkin!

TIP — *This is a great moment to check your tension: stitches should be* ***dense with no gaps****. If you can see daylight through the fabric, switch focus to slightly tighter stitches — stuffing must not peek out later.*

SHAPING

Rounds 13–15: Tapering In

Mirror image of the increases: now we **decrease** to close the top. Use the invisible decrease from page 7 every time.



The opening narrows — your pumpkin is taking shape.

Round 13: (4 SC, DEC) × 6. **(30 sts)**

Round 14: (3 SC, DEC) × 6. **(24 sts)**

Round 15: (2 SC, DEC) × 6. **(18 sts)**

***TIP — STOP after Round 15** and stuff the pumpkin before the hole gets too small for your fingers. This pause is built into the pattern on purpose.*

FINISHING THE BODY

Stuffing and Closing



Little tufts at a time — fluff, don't cram.

Stuffing

1. Pull off a small tuft of fiberfill, about the size of a grape.
2. Push it in and spread it with your fingertip.
3. Repeat until the pumpkin feels softly firm — like a ripe peach, not a tennis ball.
4. Keep the top opening clear so you can still crochet.

TIP — Common mistake: *stuffing showing through gaps.* ***Fix:*** *you need tighter stitches or slightly less stuffing — never both at once.*

Round 16: (1 SC, DEC) × 6. **(12 sts)**

Round 17: DEC × 6. **(6 sts)**



Weaving the tail through the final 6 stitches.

Fasten off leaving a **50–60 cm orange tail** — you need it for the ridges next. Thread it onto your yarn needle, weave through the front loops of the final 6 stitches, pull gently to cinch shut, and poke the needle through to the bottom of the pumpkin (leave the tail hanging — don't cut it yet).

THE PUMPKIN LOOK

Creating Realistic Ridges

This is the magic step that turns a plain orange ball into a **real pumpkin**. Using that long tail, you'll pull six gentle grooves around the body.



First groove: bottom center → top center → down the outside.

1. Thread the long tail on your yarn needle.
2. Push the needle through the **bottom center** and out the **top center**.
3. Lay the yarn down the **outside** of the pumpkin.
4. Insert at the bottom center again, out the top center — one groove formed.
5. Pull **gently** until you see a soft dent, not a deep canyon.
6. Repeat around the pumpkin for **six evenly spaced grooves**.
7. Secure with a couple of tiny stitches inside and hide the tail.



Six soft grooves — unmistakably a pumpkin now!

TIP — Common mistake: *pulling too tight makes a pinched starfish.* ***Fix:*** *think 'soft dent'. You can always tighten a groove later; you can't loosen one.*

THE STEM

Crocheting the Green Stem

A short stubby stem in forest green. Same spiral technique, tiny scale.



Stem Round 1: a tiny green ring of 6.

Round 1: With green: MR, 6 SC. **(6 sts)**

Rounds 2–4: 1 SC in every stitch. **(6 sts)**

Fasten off, leaving a **long green tail** for sewing.



A short green cylinder — the finished stem.

TIP — *Don't stuff the stem — it's too small to need it, and an unstuffed stem sews on flatter and sturdier.*

ASSEMBLY

Sewing on the Stem



Whipstitch around the base — slow and snug.

1. Center the stem on the **top middle** of the pumpkin.
2. Thread the green tail on your yarn needle.
3. Whipstitch around the base: in through the stem edge, out through a pumpkin stitch, all the way around.
4. Go around **twice** for strength — stems take a lot of tugging on keychains.
5. Knot inside and hide the tail in the pumpkin body.

TIP — Common mistake: *a wobbly stem.* ***Fix:*** *the second round of whipstitches fixes almost every wobble. Don't skip it.*

ASSEMBLY

Hanging Loop and Keyring

The loop carries the whole weight of the keychain, so we **anchor it deeply** — never through just one stitch.



Anchor through several stitches beside the stem.

1. With green yarn and your hook, join beside the stem.
2. Chain **12–15** (fewer = snugger, more = longer dangle).
3. Slip stitch back into the pumpkin a few stitches away from where you started.
4. With the yarn needle, sew over the join **several times**, catching multiple pumpkin stitches each pass.
5. Hide all ends inside the pumpkin.



Split ring through the loop — done!

6. Thread the **silver split keyring** through the green loop.

7. Give it a firm tug-test: the pumpkin should hang upright and the loop should not stretch or slip.

> **Safety note:** keychain attachments loosen with daily use. Check the loop every few weeks and re-sew if it starts to stretch. Not a toy for small children or pets.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Optional Face & Troubleshooting

The kawaii face (optional)

Thread **black embroidery thread** on your yarn needle. Place two tiny vertical stitches for eyes, about 4 stitches apart, and one small curved smile below them. Keep everything **embroidered** — never use plastic safety eyes on a keychain a child might chew. Step back and check symmetry before knotting inside.

Troubleshooting

- **Magic ring won't close:** you worked over the tail, not the ring — redo, keeping the tail as the free pulling end.
- **Wrong stitch count:** recount slowly with your finger; 9 times out of 10 it's a miscount, not a miscrochet.
- **Uneven increases / hexagon shape:** stagger increase positions (see page 9 tip).
- **Gaps between stitches:** tighten tension slightly or drop to a 2.75 mm hook.
- **Stuffing shows through:** less stuffing, tighter stitches — pick one fix.
- **Too round, not pumpkin-y:** the ridges (page 13) fix this — don't skip them.
- **Uneven ridges:** space them by eye into sixths; mark positions with pins first if needed.
- **Loose stem:** second round of whipstitches (page 15).
- **Weak loop:** anchor through more stitches; add extra sewing passes.
- **Visible tails:** weave 3–4 cm through neighboring stitches in a zigzag, then trim close.

QUICK REFERENCE

The Whole Pattern on One Page

Print this page and keep it beside you — everything below is the complete pattern.

My Little Pumpkin — keychain (US terms)

R1: MR, 6 SC. **(6 sts)**

R2: INC × 6. **(12 sts)**

R3: (1 SC, INC) × 6. **(18 sts)**

R4: (2 SC, INC) × 6. **(24 sts)**

R5: (3 SC, INC) × 6. **(30 sts)**

R6: (4 SC, INC) × 6. **(36 sts)**

R7–12: SC around. **(36 sts)**

R13: (4 SC, DEC) × 6. **(30 sts)**

R14: (3 SC, DEC) × 6. **(24 sts)**

R15: (2 SC, DEC) × 6. **(18 sts)**

***Stuff now*: (sts)**

R16: (1 SC, DEC) × 6. **(12 sts)**

R17: DEC × 6. **(6 sts)**

FO with 50–60 cm tail. Cinch closed. Shape **6 ridges** (bottom→top→outside).

Stem (green)

R1: MR, 6 SC. **(6 sts)**

R2–4: SC around. **(6 sts)**

FO with long tail. Whipstitch to top center, twice around. Chain 12–15 for the loop, anchor deeply, add split ring. Optional embroidered face.

AI-designed pattern — not physically tested. Stitch counts verified mathematically. Please crochet a sample before gifting or selling.

REFERENCE

Stitch-Count Verification Chart

Every round, checked two ways: the repeat math and the running total.

Round	Repeat	Math	Total
R1	6 SC in MR	6	6 ✓
R2	INC × 6	6 × 2	12 ✓
R3	(1 SC, INC) × 6	6 × 3	18 ✓
R4	(2 SC, INC) × 6	6 × 4	24 ✓
R5	(3 SC, INC) × 6	6 × 5	30 ✓
R6	(4 SC, INC) × 6	6 × 6	36 ✓
R7–12	SC around × 6 rounds	—	36 ✓
R13	(4 SC, DEC) × 6	6 × 5	30 ✓
R14	(3 SC, DEC) × 6	6 × 4	24 ✓
R15	(2 SC, DEC) × 6	6 × 3	18 ✓
R16	(1 SC, DEC) × 6	6 × 2	12 ✓
R17	DEC × 6	6 × 1	6 ✓

Materials checklist (print & tick)

- Orange DK yarn (15–25 g)
- Green DK yarn (3–5 g)
- 3.0 mm crochet hook
- Polyester fiberfill
- Blunt yarn needle
- Small scissors
- Stitch marker
- Metal split keyring
- Black embroidery thread (optional)

FINISHED!

You Did It!



Your little pumpkin, ready for its keyring debut.

Look at that — a real, squishy, ridged pumpkin with a stem, made by **your hands**. Clip it to your bag, gift it with a ribbon, or make a whole patch: they work up fast once you've made the first one, and a bowl of mini pumpkins is the cutest Halloween decoration there is.

Care instructions

- Spot-clean with a damp cloth; don't machine wash (the stuffing clumps).
- If a ridge loosens over time, re-tighten with matching yarn and a needle.
- Check the hanging loop every few weeks — re-sew at the first sign of stretching.
- Keep away from small children and pets (small parts).

This pattern is **AI-designed and has not been physically tested**. The math checks out, but real hands should confirm it — if you spot anything odd while crocheting, we'd love to hear about it so we can improve the guide.

Happy Halloween, and happy crocheting!

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