

AI-DESIGNED PATTERN · NOT PHYSICALLY TESTED

SWEET LITTLE HEART ❤■

The Ultimate Beginner’s Guide to Crocheting an Adorable 3D Heart Keychain

Absolute beginner · ~6 cm heart · 45–90 minutes · 35 step-by-step photos

WELCOME

Welcome — Meet Your Sweet Little Heart

This book teaches you, step by step, how to crochet an adorable miniature **3D heart keychain** — soft, puffy, and perfectly heart-shaped, with a sturdy hanging loop and a real silver keyring. Clip it to your keys, handbag, backpack, or gift it 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 heart: approximately 5–7 cm tall (about 6 cm at the recommended gauge), soft and squeezable.

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

Time needed: 45–90 minutes once you know the basic stitches; longer if you are learning each technique fresh — and that is perfectly fine.

Cost: one small ball of yarn plus a hook and a keyring (see the materials page). Most makers spend under $8–$12; prices vary by location.

Techniques used: slip knot, magic ring, chain, single crochet, increase, invisible decrease, spiral rounds, stuffing, sewing. 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.*

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 (see the verification table on page 22), but if anything feels off as you work, trust your eyes and adjust — the troubleshooting section will help.

PROJECT SPECS

Size, Difficulty & Plan

Finished size: approximately 5–7 cm tall, 5–6 cm wide at the lobes, ~3 cm thick. (Exact size depends on your yarn, hook, and tension — see “Gauge” below.)

Difficulty: absolute beginner — the whole heart uses one stitch (single crochet) plus its increase and decrease.

Yarn & hook: strawberry-pink DK-weight (#3) cotton or acrylic yarn, 3.0 mm hook (2.5–3.5 mm all work; a smaller hook gives tighter, firmer fabric).

Construction at a glance: two identical rounded domes (the heart's lobes) are crocheted first, joined into one round, then shaped with evenly spaced decreases into a heart, stuffed, closed at the point, and finished with a reinforced hanging loop and keyring.

The 7 steps of this book:

1. Gather materials (page 4)
2. Learn the pattern language (page 5)
3. Beginner lessons: hook, yarn, and every stitch (pages 6–9)
4. Crochet the two lobes (pages 10–11)
5. Join the lobes and shape the heart (pages 12–15)
6. Stuff, close, and finish (pages 16–17)
7. Attach the keyring and admire your work (pages 18–19)

> ***TIP — Gauge:*** *this pattern is forgiving — but if your heart comes out much bigger than 7 cm, try a smaller hook; if the stitches gape and show stuffing, go down a hook size. Tight, even stitches are the whole secret of cute amigurumi.*

MATERIALS & TOOLS

Your Shopping List

Everything here is inexpensive and available at any craft store or online. One heart uses **less than 25 g of yarn** — leftovers will make hearts #2, #3 and #4 nearly free.



All the materials for one heart keychain, neatly laid out.

1. Strawberry-pink DK-weight yarn (essential) — cotton or acrylic, #3 light weight. One 50 g ball makes 2–3 hearts. *Affordable alternative:* any DK/light-worsted yarn in any brand; just keep the weight consistent. *Tip:* acrylic is cheapest and holds shape well; cotton shows stitches beautifully.

2. Crochet hook, 3.0 mm (essential) — the pale-wood-handled hook in the photos. 2.5–3.5 mm all work; smaller = tighter fabric. *Alternative:* whatever hook you own closest to 3.0 mm. *Tip:* amigurumi likes a hook slightly smaller than the yarn label suggests, so no stuffing peeks through.

3. Polyester fiberfill stuffing (essential) — one small handful per heart. *Alternative:* filling from an old cushion. *Tip:* buy the smallest bag; it lasts dozens of hearts.

4. Blunt yarn needle (essential) — large eye, rounded tip for sewing and weaving tails. *Tip:* a size that threads your yarn comfortably.

5. Small scissors (essential) — any sharp small pair.

6. Stitch marker (essential) — rounds are worked in a spiral with no visible join, so you must mark round starts. *Alternative:* a scrap of contrasting yarn or a safety pin.

7. Silver split keyring, ~25 mm (essential for keychain use) — the classic double-loop ring. *Tip:* sold in multi-packs for pennies each.

8. Short metal keychain chain (optional) — for a danglier finish.

9. Lobster clasp (optional) — clips onto bag zippers.

10. Measuring tape (optional) — to check your finished size.

> ***TIP —*** *Buy the yarn first and match everything else to it: same weight, a hook one size under the label suggestion, and a needle that threads it easily.*

PATTERN LANGUAGE

Abbreviations & How to Read Rounds

Crochet patterns use abbreviations to stay compact. This book uses **US crochet terminology** throughout. Learn these and you can read every round:

MR	magic ring — an adjustable starting loop (Lesson 5)
sc	single crochet — the main stitch of this project (Lesson 6)
inc	increase — work 2 sc into the same stitch (Lesson 7)
dec	invisible decrease — join 2 stitches into 1 (Lesson 8)
ch	chain — the foundation stitch
sl st	slip stitch — a flat joining stitch
st / sts	stitch / stitches
rep	repeat
FO	fasten off — secure and cut the yarn
(…) × 6	repeat what is inside the brackets 6 times

How to read a round. Every instruction follows the same format:

```
Round 3: (1 sc, inc) × 6. (18 stitches)
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That line means: *make one single crochet, then one increase (two single crochets in the next stitch), and repeat that two-stitch sequence six times around.* The **bold number at the end** is your checkpoint — count your stitches; if the count matches, you are on track.

- Work in a **spiral**: do not join rounds. Place a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round so you never lose your place.
- 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 and decrease rounds. Catching a mistake in the round where it happens saves ten minutes of pulling out stitches.*

BEGINNER LESSON

Hooks, Yarn & How to Hold Everything

Lesson 1 — Understanding crochet hooks. Hooks are sized in millimeters; this project uses a **3.0 mm** hook. Smaller number = smaller hook = smaller, tighter stitches. For amigurumi (stuffed crochet), choose a hook slightly smaller than your yarn label suggests — tight stitches keep the stuffing hidden.



Your two heroes: strawberry-pink DK yarn and a 3.0 mm hook.

Lesson 2 — Understanding yarn. DK (double knitting) is a medium-light yarn weight (#3) — the sweet spot for small amigurumi: not fiddly like thread, not bulky. **Cotton** shows crisp stitch definition; **acrylic** is softer, cheaper, and very forgiving. Both work for this heart. **Tension** is how tightly you hold the yarn — aim for even, relaxed stitches the hook slides through easily.

Lesson 3 — Holding the hook and yarn. Your hook hand steers; your yarn hand is the tension brake:

1. Hold the hook like a **pencil** (pinch the flat thumb-rest) or like a **knife** (fist over the handle) — try both, keep what feels natural.
2. Drape the yarn over your index finger, then under your middle finger.
3. Close your ring and pinky fingers gently over the yarn. It should **glide** — not drag, not race — as the hook pulls it.



A comfortable pencil grip with the yarn tensioned over the index finger.

> ***TIP — Beginner mistake:*** *a death-grip on the hook and yanked-tight yarn. Relax your shoulders! Stitches should be loose enough that the hook slides in easily — tight crocheting causes hand cramps and makes every later step harder.*

BEGINNER LESSON

Slip Knot & Magic Ring

Lesson 4 — Making a slip knot. Every project starts here:

1. Make a loop with the yarn, the working end (from the ball) crossing **over** the tail end.
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.



The slip knot: working yarn and tail clearly distinguishable.

Lesson 5 — Creating a magic ring. This adjustable loop starts both heart lobes — and it closes with **no hole**, unlike a chain ring:

1. Drape the 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: an adjustable loop, hook ready to begin.

> ***TIP — Beginner mistake:*** *a magic ring that won't close. 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 — no shame in it.*

BEGINNER LESSON

Single Crochet & Increases

Lesson 6 — Single crochet (sc). The only stitch this heart 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!



The first single crochets worked into the magic ring — hook, loop, and yarn path all visible.

Closing the ring: after working 6 sc into the magic ring, pull the tail to cinch the center shut.



Pull the tail — the center closes like a drawstring.

Lesson 7 — Crochet increase (inc). Simply work **2 single crochets into the same stitch**. Increases make the fabric grow outward — they shape the round domes of the heart's lobes.



An increase: two single crochets sharing one stitch below.

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

BEGINNER LESSON

Invisible Decrease, Spiral Rounds & Counting

Lesson 8 — Invisible decrease (dec). Joins two stitches into one with almost no visible gap — essential for smooth heart 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, pull through the first 2 loops; yarn over, pull through the last 2 loops. Two stitches became one, invisibly.



The invisible decrease: hook through the front loops of two adjacent stitches.

Lesson 9 — Working in spiral rounds. This heart is crocheted in a continuous spiral — you never join a round or turn the work. The **stitch marker** is your lifeline: clip it into the first stitch of every round and move it up as you go. Without it, you will lose track of where rounds begin within minutes.

Lesson 10 — Counting stitches. A single crochet looks like a little **V** at the top of the fabric. Count the V's around the round — that is your stitch count. Compare with the **bold checkpoint number** at the end of each round instruction. If it matches, you are on track; if not, recount the round before moving on.

> ***TIP —*** *Count out loud on increase and decrease rounds. Ninety percent of amigurumi mishaps are a missed increase three rounds back — catching it early saves everything.*

PART A — FIRST LOBE

Crocheting the First Heart Lobe

The heart is built from **two identical rounded domes** (the lobes). Make the first one now. Work in a spiral — place your stitch marker in the first stitch of every round.



The first lobe: a neat dome after round 6.



Top view: concentric rounds, perfectly round.

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 sc, 1 inc] six times. **(18 stitches)**

Round 4: Repeat [2 sc, 1 inc] six times. **(24 stitches)**

Rounds 5–6: Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(24 stitches)** — 2 plain rounds. The sides grow straight, forming the dome.

Fasten off, leaving a **15 cm tail** — you will use it later to sew the heart's center dip. Set this lobe aside.

> ***TIP —*** *Both lobes must be **identical**. Count every round of the first lobe now — it is your template. If the dome curls like a bowl, loosen your tension slightly; if the edge ripples, you added an extra increase somewhere.*

PART B — SECOND LOBE

Crocheting the Matching Second Lobe

Now make the second dome **exactly** the same — same yarn, same hook, same six rounds. The one difference: **do NOT fasten off**. The working yarn stays attached, because you will crochet straight on into the joining round.



The second lobe in progress — same pink, same hook, same size.

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 sc, 1 inc] six times. **(18 stitches)**

Round 4: Repeat [2 sc, 1 inc] six times. **(24 stitches)**

Rounds 5–6: Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(24 stitches)** — 2 plain rounds. **Do not cut the yarn.**



Two identical domes: one fastened off with a tail, one with the working yarn still attached.

TIP — *Hold the domes together — do they match in height and width? If one is bigger, your tension drifted. It is worth remaking the smaller one now; mismatched lobes make a lopsided heart.*

PART C — JOINING

Positioning & Joining the Lobes

Step 5 of 7 · The joining round (Lesson 11)

Lesson 11 — Joining two crochet pieces. Instead of sewing, we crochet the lobes together: one continuous round travels around **both** domes, merging them into a single piece. Here is exactly how:

1. Hold the two lobes **side by side**, openings facing down, the lobe with the working yarn on the **right**.
2. Your hook is in the last stitch of the second lobe's round 6 — that is where the joining round begins.
3. Single crochet in each of the **24 stitches around the second lobe**.
4. Without cutting anything, continue directly onto the first lobe: single crochet in each of its **24 stitches**.
5. You have now worked **48 stitches** in one giant round.



Lobes side by side, openings down, ready to join.



The hook enters the first joining stitch — extreme close-up.

TIP — Avoiding a hole between the lobes: *pull the first stitch of each lobe snug as you cross over. Any tiny remaining gap gets sewn shut later with the first lobe's tail — so don't panic if you see a pinhole.*

Round 7 (joining round): sc in each of the 24 sts around the second lobe, then sc in each of the 24 sts around the first lobe. **(48 stitches)** — place your stitch marker in the first stitch of this round; it is the new round start. Keep the lobes symmetrical: 24 stitches each side of the center.

PART C — JOINING

The Joined Lobes

Step 5 of 7 · Joining round complete

After round 7, the two domes are one piece — a peanut shape with the heart's upper indentation already visible between the lobes. From here on, you simply crochet around the combined outside edge.



The working yarn travels around both lobes' combined perimeter.



Join complete: 48 stitches, dip visible between the lobes.

Checklist before continuing:

- Count the round: you must have **48 stitches**. If you have 47 or 49, you skipped or doubled a stitch at the crossover — fix it now.
- The lobes sit **level** with each other, not twisted.
- Your stitch marker is in the first stitch of round 7.

> ***TIP —*** *If the piece looks like a peanut, celebrate — that is exactly right. The heart shape emerges over the next few rounds as the decreases sculpt it.*

PART D — SHAPING

Shaping the Upper Heart Body

Step 5 of 7 · Shaping rounds

Now evenly spaced decreases sculpt the peanut into a heart. Each decrease round removes exactly 6 stitches; plain rounds between them keep the shaping smooth.

Round 8: Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(48 stitches)**

Round 9: Repeat [6 sc, 1 dec] six times. **(42 stitches)**

Round 10: Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(42 stitches)**

Round 11: Repeat [5 sc, 1 dec] six times. **(36 stitches)**



Several shaping rounds in: the heart emerges.



Working a decrease round — marker in place.

What is happening: the decreases pull the sides inward while the two lobes stay plump on top — that contrast is what reads as a *heart* rather than a ball.

> ***TIP —*** *Mark your decreases: after each decrease round, count. 48 → 42 → 36. If a count is off by one, the error is almost always a decrease worked as a plain stitch (or vice versa) — scan the round for it.*

PART D — SHAPING

Tapering the Lower Heart

Step 5 of 7 · Lower taper

The decreases continue, and the bottom of the heart begins to narrow toward its soft point.

Round 12: Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(36 stitches)**

Round 13: Repeat [4 sc, 1 dec] six times. **(30 stitches)**

Round 14: Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(30 stitches)**



The heart narrows toward the lower point — lobes still round on top.

Begin stuffing after round 14 (next page) — the opening is still roomy enough to work through comfortably.

> ***TIP —*** *If your heart looks more like a round ball than a heart, the usual cause is decreases placed unevenly. Keep them evenly spaced as written — the pattern does the shaping for you.*

PART E — STUFFING

Adding Stuffing & Keeping the Shape

Lesson 12 — Adding stuffing. Stuffing is a skill, not an afterthought. Good stuffing makes the difference between a plush heart and a lumpy one:

1. Tear the fiberfill into **small pinches** — never one big clump.
2. Push small pieces through the bottom opening with your finger or the blunt end of your hook.
3. Fill the **two upper lobes first**, pressing gently so they stay rounded.
4. Add a little at a time. The heart should feel **firm but squashy**, like a ripe peach — no lumps, no hollow spots.
5. **Do not overstuff:** if the stitches stretch and white shows through, pull some out.



The heart before stuffing — lower opening still open.



Small pinches of fiberfill go in first.



Gentle shaping keeps both lobes rounded.

TIP — *Lumpy heart? Pull the stuffing out and redo it in smaller pinches, rolling the heart between your palms like a snowball to even it out. Five extra minutes here pays off in the finished look.*

PART F — CLOSING

Forming the Point & Hiding the Tail

Lesson 13 — Closing the heart. The final decreases form the softly tapered lower point. Add the last stuffing before the opening gets too small.

Round 15: Repeat [3 sc, 1 dec] six times. **(24 stitches)**

Round 16: Make 1 single crochet in each stitch around. **(24 stitches)**

Round 17: Repeat [2 sc, 1 dec] six times. **(18 stitches)**

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

Add the **final stuffing** now — the heart should be evenly plump all over.

Round 19: Repeat [1 sc, 1 dec] six times. **(12 stitches)**

Round 20: Make 1 decrease in each stitch around. **(6 stitches)**

Fasten off, leaving a 15 cm tail. Thread the tail on your yarn needle, pass it through the **front loop** of each remaining stitch, and pull tight like a drawstring. Knot, then poke the needle through to the heart's center and weave the tail inside to hide it.



Closing the last stitches with the yarn needle.



The needle dives inside — the tail disappears forever.

Deepen the dip (recommended): thread the first lobe's 15 cm tail on your needle, take 1–2 small whipstitches across the inner valley between the lobes, pull gently to define the heart's top indentation, knot, and weave in. This one tiny step makes the heart read unmistakably as a *heart*.

> ***TIP —*** *Lumpy point? Before pulling the drawstring fully tight, push a tiny pinch of stuffing right down into the tip with the needle's blunt end — then cinch.*

PART G — KEYRING

Hanging Loop & Keyring Attachment

Step 7 of 7 · Keyring (Lesson 14)

Lesson 14 — Attaching the keyring. The loop carries the whole heart's weight, so we anchor it **into both lobes** and reinforce it:

1. At the heart's **top-center valley**, join pink yarn with a slip stitch through the top stitches — anchor into at least **2 stitches of each lobe**.
2. Chain **14**, keeping the chains even, not too tight.
3. Slip stitch back into the **same anchor point**, forming a loop.
4. **Reinforce:** wrap the yarn twice around the base of the loop, knot securely, and weave in both ends through several stitches in different directions.
5. Open the silver split keyring and slide it onto the yarn loop; let it close.
6. **Tug-test:** pull firmly. The loop must not stretch open, and the heart must hang upright, point down. If it twists, re-anchor one stitch to the side.



The reinforced pink loop at the heart's top-center valley.



Sliding the silver split ring onto the loop.



Macro: the wrapped, reinforced anchor.

TIP — Loose keyring attachment? *The fix is always more anchoring: weave the tails through 6–8 stitches in a zigzag, not a straight line — a zigzag can't pull out. If the chain loop itself stretched, remake it slightly tighter.*

FINISHING

Final Checks & Your Finished Heart

Step 7 of 7 · Quality checks

Before you call it done, run this five-point quality check:

- **Shape:** two rounded lobes, a visible center dip, smooth symmetrical sides, a softly tapered point. Roll it gently between your palms to even the stuffing.
- **Stitches:** tight and even, no stuffing peeking through, no gaps at the lobe join or the closed point.
- **Tails:** every yarn end woven in and trimmed — nothing poking out.
- **Loop & ring:** tug-tested; the heart hangs upright and the ring closes fully.
- **Size:** roughly 5–7 cm tall. (A little over or under is handmade charm.)



Your finished Sweet Little Heart — soft, puffy, and unmistakably heart-shaped.

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

❤■ **You did it!** From a slip knot to a finished keychain — every stitch in this heart is yours.

FIX-IT GUIDE

Common Beginner Problems & Fixes

Finishing · Troubleshooting

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

1. My magic ring won't close. Your first stitches probably caught only the loop, not the tail. Unpick round 1, redo it catching **both** the loop and the tail, then pull. Last resort: whipstitch the hole shut with the tail.

2. My stitch count is wrong. 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/decrease, or an accidental extra stitch in the round's first stitch.

3. My two lobes are different sizes. Your tension drifted between lobes (very common). The smaller lobe was likely worked tighter. Remake the smaller one to match — mismatched lobes make a lopsided heart.

4. There is a gap between the joined lobes. Pull the crossover stitches snug, then use the first lobe's tail to whipstitch the pinhole closed from the inside. Stuffing must not escape through it.

5. My heart looks round, not heart-shaped. Usually unevenly spaced decreases, or the center dip was never sewn. Keep decreases evenly spaced as written, and don't skip the dip-deepening whipstitches (page 17).

6. Stuffing shows through the stitches. Stitches too loose for the yarn: go down a hook size, keep gentle even tension, and stuff with small pinches rather than stretching the fabric.

7. My decreases look uneven. Make sure you are using the **invisible** decrease (front loops only, Lesson 8) — a regular decrease leaves a visible bump. Keep the same rhythm on every decrease round.

8. The lower point looks messy. Push a tiny pinch of stuffing into the tip before cinching the drawstring, pull the tail firmly and evenly, and hide it well inside.

9. Yarn tails keep poking out. Weave tails through the stitches for 3–4 cm, **change direction once**, then trim close. A straight-line weave works loose; a direction change locks it.

10. The keyring attachment feels loose. Re-anchor in a zigzag through 6–8 stitches (page 18). If the chain loop stretched, remake it one or two chains shorter.

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

QUICK REFERENCE

Printable Round-by-Round Pattern

Tear-out · All rounds at a glance

The whole pattern on one page — print this and keep it by your chair. US terms. MR = magic ring · sc = single crochet · inc = 2 sc in same st · dec = invisible decrease · ch = chain · sl st = slip stitch · FO = fasten off.

LOBE (make 2). R1: 6 sc in MR (6) · R2: inc × 6 (12) · R3: (sc, inc) × 6 (18) · R4: (2 sc, inc) × 6 (24) · R5–6: sc around (24). FO first lobe with 15 cm tail; do NOT fasten off second lobe.

JOIN — R7: sc 24 around second lobe, then sc 24 around first lobe. **(48)** Place marker in first st.

BODY. R8: sc around (48) · R9: (6 sc, dec) × 6 (42) · R10: sc around (42) · R11: (5 sc, dec) × 6 (36) · R12: sc around (36) · R13: (4 sc, dec) × 6 (30) · R14: sc around (30) — **begin stuffing**.

POINT & CLOSE. R15: (3 sc, dec) × 6 (24) · R16: sc around (24) · R17: (2 sc, dec) × 6 (18) · R18: sc around (18) — **finish stuffing** · R19: (sc, dec) × 6 (12) · R20: dec × 6 (6). FO (15 cm tail); drawstring through front loops, pull tight, weave in.

DIP: with first lobe's tail, 1–2 whipstitches across the inner valley, pull gently, knot, weave in.

LOOP & RING: sl st join pink yarn at top-center valley (anchor into 2 sts per lobe); ch 14; sl st into same point; wrap yarn twice around loop base; knot; weave in zigzag. Slide on split keyring. Tug-test — heart must hang upright.

Materials per heart: pink DK yarn < 25 g · 3.0 mm hook · fiberfill handful · yarn needle · scissors · stitch marker · 25 mm split keyring. **Size:** ~5–7 cm tall. **Time:** 45–90 min.

PATTERN VERIFICATION

Stitch-Count Chart & Assembly Summary

Reference · The math, checked

Every round of this pattern was arithmetically verified. Use this chart to double-check your own work as you go:

Round	Instruction	Before	After
R1	6 sc in MR	6	**6**
R2	inc × 6	6	**12**
R3	(sc, inc) × 6	12	**18**
R4	(2 sc, inc) × 6	18	**24**
R5–6	sc around	24	**24**
R7	join: 24 + 24 around both lobes	—	**48**
R8	sc around	48	**48**
R9	(6 sc, dec) × 6	48	**42**
R10	sc around	42	**42**
R11	(5 sc, dec) × 6	42	**36**
R12	sc around	36	**36**
R13	(4 sc, dec) × 6	36	**30**
R14	sc around · **begin stuffing**	30	**30**
R15	(3 sc, dec) × 6	30	**24**
R16	sc around	24	**24**
R17	(2 sc, dec) × 6	24	**18**
R18	sc around · **finish stuffing**	18	**18**
R19	(sc, dec) × 6	18	**12**
R20	dec × 6	12	**6**

Verification checks (all passed): both lobes identical · join = 24 + 24 = 48 · every decrease round removes exactly 6 sts · final 6-st opening closes with a drawstring · shape physically achievable with standard amigurumi shaping · yarn sufficient (< 25 g).

Assembly summary: Lobe → Lobe → Join (48) → Shape (48→30) → Stuff → Point (30→6) → Close → Dip stitch → Loop + keyring. US terminology throughout; no unexplained abbreviations; no skipped rounds.

MAKE IT YOURS

Alternative Colors & Bonus Ideas

Inspiration · Variations

The pattern stays exactly the same — only the yarn color changes. One ball of each color makes 2–3 hearts, so a rainbow is cheap:



Same heart, three moods: strawberry pink, classic red, lavender.

- ❤■ **Classic Red Valentine's Heart** — true red DK yarn. The timeless gift-shop classic.
- ■■ **Pastel Pink Heart** — the strawberry pink from this book, or go one shade lighter for baby-soft.
- ■■ **Lavender Heart** — soft purple; lovely on lilac or grey bags.
- ■■ **Cream Heart** — undyed-look cream; elegant and neutral.
- ■■ **Baby Blue Heart** — sweet for baby-shower gifts and keychains.
- ■■ **Peach Heart** — warm and cheerful, a summer favorite.

Bonus: kawaii face (optional). The main design has no face — but if you want a cute character heart, embroider two tiny French-knot or straight-stitch eyes in black yarn and a small smiling mouth below them, centered on the upper half. Keep it small: the charm is in the miniature scale.

More bonus ideas: a tiny crocheted flower sewn beside the loop · a contrasting-color edging round (sc around the finished heart's middle) · a bell inside before closing for a jingle heart · lavender dried buds mixed into the stuffing for a scented heart.

> ***TIP —*** *Selling at a craft fair? Make sets of three in coordinated colors, boxed as in the photo on page 24 — trios outsell singles nearly every time.*

GALLERY

Your Heart in the Wild

Finishing · The reveal

Front, side, and styled — here is the Sweet Little Heart in all its handmade glory. Compare yours at each angle; small differences are the signature of handmade, not flaws.



Front view: plump, symmetrical, kissable.



Side view: soft, even thickness.



Out in the world: clipped to a cream handbag.



Gift-ready: kraft box, tissue, and a ribbon.

TIP — *A heart in a gift box with a handwritten tag beats a greeting card every time — and it costs you under an hour and a few grams of yarn.*

AFTER THE LAST STITCH

Care, Checklist & Final Notes

Finishing · Keep it beautiful

Crochet care instructions. Your heart is hardy, but a little care keeps it handsome:

- **Cleaning:** spot-clean with a damp cloth and mild soap. Hand-wash cold only if truly needed; gently squeeze (never wring), reshape, and air-dry flat.
- **Everyday wear:** keychain life is rough — check the loop and ring monthly and re-anchor at the first sign of loosening.
- **Storage:** store flat in a breathable bag, not squashed under heavy items.
- **Repairs:** a loose thread? Weave it back in with your yarn needle. A flat spot? Roll between your palms to redistribute the stuffing.

■ **Project completion checklist:**

- Both lobes crocheted, identical, counts verified.
- Lobes joined cleanly — 48 stitches, no gaps.
- Shaping complete — heart shape clearly visible.
- Stuffed evenly — firm, squashy, no lumps.
- Lower point closed neatly; tail hidden inside.
- Center dip defined with 1–2 whipstitches.
- Hanging loop reinforced, anchored into both lobes.
- Keyring attached; tug-test passed; heart hangs upright.
- All tails woven in and trimmed.

About this pattern. *Sweet Little Heart* is an **AI-designed pattern** created for absolute beginners. The stitch mathematics have been verified round by round (see page 22), but the pattern has **not been physically crocheted and tested** by a human. If you test it, please note any adjustments — patterns get better every time a real crocheter works them. For personal use; you may sell finished hearts you make, with credit to the pattern.

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Happy crocheting — may your stitches stay even and your hearts stay puffy. ❤■

Crochet Corner