KIWI THE LITTLE DINOSAUR

Complete Digital Crochet Amigurumi Pattern



DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ONLY - NO PHYSICAL ITEM WILL BE SHIPPED

Skill level: Confident beginner / Intermediate
Terminology: Standard US crochet terms
Recommended yarn: Super bulky #6 chenille | Hook: 5.0 mm

2. Digital Download Notice

IMPORTANT PURCHASE INFORMATION

This product is a digital crochet pattern. You will not receive a finished dinosaur, toy, kit, yarn, or any other physical item. You must crochet, stuff, sew, and finish Kiwi yourself.

- Format: complete written crochet instructions with placement guidance, assembly methods, troubleshooting, and finishing checks.
- The customer is responsible for choosing suitable materials and securely assembling the finished amigurumi.
- If you substitute yarn or hook size, preserve the proportions by using the same stitch counts and a dense amigurumi fabric.

DESIGN CHARACTER

Kiwi is a seated, rounded little dinosaur with an oversized pale-green head, compact body, cream belly patch, small pink cheeks, dark-green foot pads, a gently tapering tail, and a centered row of rounded dark-green dorsal plates running from the crown down the back and onto the tail.

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QUICK START Read Sections 4-8 before beginning. Crochet all pieces in Section 9, then use Sections 13-16 for placement, stuffing and assembly. Keep the 18-st neck openings of the head and body accessible until the head-body join.

3. Finished Measurements

The measurements below are calculated design targets using the recommended super bulky chenille yarn, 5.0 mm hook, and firm amigurumi tension. They are intentionally given as ranges because individual crochet technique changes the final result.

Feature	Target metric	Target imperial
Overall seated height	21-23 cm	8.25-9 in
Overall width across feet	about 13-15 cm	about 5-6 in
Overall depth including tail	22-25 cm	8.75-9.75 in
Head width	12-13.5 cm	4.75-5.25 in
Head height	11.5-12.5 cm	4.5-5 in
Body width	9-10.5 cm	3.5-4.25 in
Body height	9.5-11 cm	3.75-4.25 in
Arm length	5.5-6.5 cm	2.25-2.5 in
Leg / foot length	6-7 cm	2.25-2.75 in
Tail length	12-14 cm	4.75-5.5 in
Belly patch	about 6-7 x 7.5-8.5 cm	about 2.5-2.75 x 3-3.25 in
Cheek diameter	about 1.2-1.6 cm	about 0.5-0.6 in
Foot-pad diameter	about 1.8-2.2 cm	about 0.7-0.9 in
Large dorsal plate	3-3.5 cm	1.25-1.4 in
Medium dorsal plate	2.5-3 cm	1-1.25 in
Small dorsal plate	2-2.5 cm	0.75-1 in

SIZE VARIATION If your fabric is looser than the stated gauge, Kiwi will finish larger and use more yarn. If it is tighter, Kiwi will finish smaller and may feel firmer. Prioritize dense stitches with no visible stuffing over chasing an exact measurement.

4. Materials and Tools

Item	Recommendation	Amount
Yarn - pale green	Super bulky #6 chenille / blanket yarn, polyester preferred	120-140 g
Yarn - dark green	Same weight and fibre for dorsal plates and foot pads	25-35 g
Yarn - cream	Same weight for the enlarged belly patch	20-25 g
Yarn - pink	Same or slightly lighter plush yarn for cheeks	3-5 g
Black yarn / embroidery floss	Smooth black yarn or floss for smile and optional embroidered eyes	Small scrap
Crochet hook	5.0 mm (US H-8), or size needed for dense fabric	1
Safety eyes	18-20 mm black safety eyes with secure washers	2
Polyester fibre filling	For head, body, limbs, tail and plates	Approx. 70-100 g
Tapestry needle	Blunt yarn needle suitable for chenille yarn	1

Item	Recommendation	Amount
Stitch markers	One BOR marker plus removable placement markers	Several
Pins	For checking placement before sewing	Several
Scissors	Sharp craft scissors	1 pair
Measuring tape	For checking design-target size and spacing	1
Row counter	Optional but useful for long round sequences	Optional

CHILD-SAFETY WARNING

Safety eyes and any rigid or small components may be unsuitable for children under 3 years old. For an alternative without safety-eye hardware, embroider the eyes securely with black yarn or embroidery floss and avoid buttons, beads, wire, or other hard components. Always supervise use according to the materials you choose.

5. Gauge and Tension

Recommended gauge: approximately 15 sc x 17 rounds = 10 x 10 cm (4 x 4 in), worked in continuous spiral rounds with a 5.0 mm hook and the recommended super bulky chenille yarn. Measure on a gently flattened section without stretching.

- Use firm, dense tension so the stuffing does not show between stitches.
- A slightly smaller hook than the yarn label suggests is normal for amigurumi.
- Exact gauge changes the finished size and yarn usage; it does not guarantee an exact final measurement.
- If stitches feel painfully tight or the fabric becomes rigid, increase the hook by 0.5 mm and recheck for visible gaps.

6. Crochet Method and Terminology

- Terminology: standard US crochet terms.
- Head, body, arms, legs, tail, cheeks, foot pads and dorsal plates are worked in continuous spiral rounds unless a specific instruction says otherwise.
- Place the BOR marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up after every completed round. The BOR marker is for round counting; anatomical placement is checked with separate CF and CB guide markers after stuffing.
- The belly patch is worked in continuous spiral rounds as a flat oval around both sides of a foundation chain. Do not join and do not turn the work. Place the BOR marker in the first stitch of Rnd 1 and move it up after every completed round.
- Yarn-under single crochet is recommended for the compact X-shaped texture visible in the reference. Regular yarn-over single crochet is acceptable if used consistently throughout.
- Keep the finished/right side of the crochet fabric facing outward.
- The starting loop, foundation chain, and BOR marker are not counted as stitches unless a round explicitly says otherwise.

7. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
MR	magic ring
ch	chain
sc	single crochet
inc	increase: work 2 sc in the same stitch
inv dec	invisible decrease: insert the hook through the front loops of the next 2 stitches and complete them together as 1 sc
st / sts	stitch / stitches
rnd / rnds	round / rounds

Abbreviation	Meaning
FO	fasten off
BOR	beginning of round
CF	centre front
CB	centre back

8. Construction Overview

Right and left are described from Kiwi's point of view unless otherwise stated. After the head and body are stuffed, use removable guide threads or markers to identify CF and CB visually; do not rely on the spiral BOR alone for anatomy because spiral rounds can drift slightly.

Piece	Qty	Stuffing	Construction / access note
Head	1	Stuffed	Worked top-down; leave 18-st neck opening accessible.
Body	1	Stuffed	Worked bottom-up; leave 18-st neck opening accessible.
Arms	2	Lightly stuffed	Flatten and close the top edge before sewing.
Legs	2	Moderately stuffed	Flatten and close the top edge before sewing.
Tail	1	Light-to-moderate	Worked tip-to-base; leave 18-st base open for sewing.
Belly patch	1	Unstuffed	Flat cream oval applique.
Cheeks	2	Unstuffed	Small flat pink circles.
Foot pads	2	Unstuffed	Flat dark-green circles.
Large dorsal plates	3	Lightly stuffed	Crown and upper head.
Medium dorsal plates	4	Lightly stuffed	Lower head and body.
Small dorsal plates	3	Very lightly stuffed	Tail.

RECOMMENDED ASSEMBLY ORDER

Complete the head and face while the neck opening is accessible; finish the body and belly patch; complete the legs and foot pads; attach the legs; attach the tail; join head to body; attach the arms; attach the dorsal plates from crown to tail; then perform the final symmetry and balance check.

9. Complete Written Crochet Pattern

BEFORE YOU START Use a stitch marker in the first stitch of every continuous round. Count stitches after every shaping round. Unless otherwise stated, work through both loops.

A. Head - Make 1

Work in pale green. After Rnd 18, pause to install the eyes before the opening becomes smaller. Continue decreasing, then leave the 18-st neck opening unclosed.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With pale green, 6 sc in MR.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc in next st, inc in next st) 6 times.	18
4	(Sc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) 6 times.	24
5	(Sc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) 6 times.	30
6	(Sc in next 4 sts, inc in next st) 6 times.	36
7	(Sc in next 5 sts, inc in next st) 6 times.	42
8	(Sc in next 6 sts, inc in next st) 6 times.	48
9	(Sc in next 7 sts, inc in next st) 6 times.	54
10-18	Sc in each st around.	54
19	(Sc in next 7 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	48
20	(Sc in next 6 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	42
21	(Sc in next 5 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	36
22	(Sc in next 4 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	30
23	(Sc in next 3 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	24
24	(Sc in next 2 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	18

EYE INSTALLATION BEFORE RND 19

Lightly stuff the head so the face shape is visible. Mark CF visually. Insert the safety eyes between Head Rnds 14 and 15, about 5 sts to each side of CF (about 10 sts centre-to-centre). Check from the front and top, then fit the washers securely. For embroidered eyes, place removable markers at these positions and embroider the eyes later while the neck opening remains accessible.

FINISH THE HEAD AFTER RND 24

Stuff the head firmly without stretching the stitches. Keep the lower 2 rounds slightly softer so the neck seam can be shaped smoothly. Sew on the cheeks and embroider the smile while the 18-st neck opening remains accessible for securing and burying yarn ends. FO, leaving a 60 cm / 24 in tail for the head-body join. Do not close the opening.

B. Body - Make 1

Work in pale green from the lower body upward. The 18-st top opening becomes the neck and remains open for the head-body join.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With pale green, 6 sc in MR.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc in next st, inc in next st) 6 times.	18
4	(Sc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) 6 times.	24
5	(Sc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) 6 times.	30
6	(Sc in next 4 sts, inc in next st) 6 times.	36
7	(Sc in next 5 sts, inc in next st) 6 times.	42
8-12	Sc in each st around.	42
13	(Sc in next 5 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	36
14-16	Sc in each st around.	36
17	(Sc in next 4 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	30
18-19	Sc in each st around.	30
20	(Sc in next 3 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	24
21	(Sc in next 2 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	18
22	Sc in each st around.	18

After Rnd 22, stuff moderately-firmly. Keep the base broad and flat and the top 2 rounds slightly softer for joining. FO, leaving a 50 cm / 20 in tail if you prefer to use the body tail for joining; otherwise use the longer head tail. Do not close the 18-st neck opening.

C. Arms - Make 2

Work in pale green. Keep the upper half lightly stuffed so the arms lie close to the body.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With pale green, 6 sc in MR.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3-6	Sc in each st around.	12
7	(Sc in next 4 sts, inv dec) 2 times.	10
8-10	Sc in each st around.	10
Closure	Lightly stuff the hand end only. Flatten the opening and sc through both layers across 5 stitch pairs.	5

FO, leaving a 30 cm / 12 in tail for sewing.

D. Legs / Feet - Make 2

Work in pale green. The round lower portion becomes the visible foot; the flattened edge is sewn to the lower body.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With pale green, 6 sc in MR.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc in next st, inc in next st) 6 times.	18
4-6	Sc in each st around.	18
7	(Sc in next st, inv dec) 6 times.	12
8-10	Sc in each st around.	12
Closure	Stuff moderately, keeping the front rounded. Flatten the opening and sc through both layers across 6 stitch pairs.	6

FO, leaving a 35 cm / 14 in tail for sewing.

E. Tail - Make 1

Work in pale green from tip to base. This creates a thick, rounded taper like the reference.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With pale green, 6 sc in MR.	6
2	Sc in each st around.	6
3	(Sc in next st, inc in next st) 3 times.	9
4-5	Sc in each st around.	9
6	(Sc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) 3 times.	12
7-9	Sc in each st around.	12
10	(Sc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) 3 times.	15
11-13	Sc in each st around.	15
14	(Sc in next 4 sts, inc in next st) 3 times.	18
15-21	Sc in each st around.	18

Stuff very lightly near the tip and moderately at the base. Keep the tail flexible enough to curve. FO, leaving a 45 cm / 18 in tail. Leave the 18-st base open.

F. Cream Belly Patch - Make 1

With cream yarn, work in continuous spiral rounds around both sides of the foundation chain. Do not join and do not turn. Place the BOR marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up after every completed round.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
Foundation	With cream, ch 6.	6 ch
1	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and next 3 ch; 3 sc in last ch. Rotate to work along the unused loops of the foundation chain; sc in next 3 loops; 2 sc in the last loop.	12
2	Inc in first st; sc in next 3 sts; inc in each of next 3 sts; sc in next 3 sts; inc in each of last 2 sts.	18

Rnd	Instruction	Count
3	(Sc in next st, inc in next st); sc in next 3 sts; (sc in next st, inc in next st) 3 times; sc in next 3 sts; (sc in next st, inc in next st) 2 times.	24
4	(Sc in next 2 sts, inc in next st); sc in next 3 sts; (sc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) 3 times; sc in next 3 sts; (sc in next 2 sts, inc in next st) 2 times.	30
5	(Sc in next 3 sts, inc in next st); sc in next 3 sts; (sc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) 3 times; sc in next 3 sts; (sc in next 3 sts, inc in next st) 2 times.	36

FO, leaving a 45 cm / 18 in sewing tail. Gently shape the oval with your fingers; do not stuff.

G. Pink Cheeks - Make 2

Work in pink. These are small flat appliques.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Work 6 sc in MR. Pull the ring fully closed.	6

FO, leaving 20 cm / 8 in tails. Do not stuff.

H. Dark-Green Foot Pads - Make 2

Work in dark green. These are flat appliques sewn to the front of the feet.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Work 6 sc in MR.	6
2	(Sc in next st, inc in next st) 3 times.	9

FO, leaving 20 cm / 8 in tails. Do not stuff.

I. Large Dorsal Plates - Make 3

Work in dark green. Lightly stuff each dome so it stays rounded but not hard.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With dark green, 6 sc in MR.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	Sc in each st around.	12
4	(Sc in next st, inv dec) 4 times.	8
5	Sc in each st around.	8

FO, leaving 25 cm / 10 in sewing tails. Keep the 8-st base opening visible.

J. Medium Dorsal Plates - Make 4

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With dark green, 6 sc in MR.	6
2	(Sc in next st, inc in next st) 3 times.	9
3	Sc in each st around.	9
4	(Sc in next st, inv dec) 3 times.	6

FO, leaving 25 cm / 10 in sewing tails. Keep the 6-st base opening visible.

K. Small Dorsal Plates - Make 3

Work in dark green. Use only a tiny pinch of stuffing.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	With dark green, 6 sc in MR.	6
2	Sc in each st around.	6
3	(Sc in next st, inv dec) 2 times.	4

FO, leaving 20 cm / 8 in sewing tails. Keep the 4-st base opening visible.

PIECE COUNT CHECK Before assembly you should have 22 crochet pieces: 1 head, 1 body, 2 arms, 2 legs, 1 tail, 1 belly patch, 2 cheeks, 2 foot pads, 3 large plates, 4 medium plates and 3 small plates.

10. Stitch-Count Validation

The shaped rounds in this digital pattern were checked so that each repeat consumes the available stitches and produces the stated final count. The customer does not need to perform calculations while crocheting.

Piece	Validated stitch-count path
Head	6 -> 12 -> 18 -> 24 -> 30 -> 36 -> 42 -> 48 -> 54; then 48 -> 42 -> 36 -> 30 -> 24 -> 18
Body	6 -> 12 -> 18 -> 24 -> 30 -> 36 -> 42; then 36 -> 30 -> 24 -> 18
Arms	12 -> 10 before 5-st flattened closure
Legs	18 -> 12 before 6-st flattened closure
Tail	6 -> 9 -> 12 -> 15 -> 18 from tip to base
Belly patch	12 -> 18 -> 24 -> 30 -> 36
Cheeks	6
Foot pads	6 -> 9
Large plate	6 -> 12 -> 8
Medium plate	6 -> 9 -> 6
Small plate	6 -> 4

DIGITAL CHECK ONLY This stitch-count review checks written arithmetic and sequence consistency. It does not replace a physical test crochet and does not guarantee an exact finished dimension or stuffing behaviour.

11. Shaping and Proportions

- Head-to-body ratio: the 54-st head is intentionally larger than the 42-st body to reproduce Kiwi's oversized chibi head.
- Body: the lower 42-st section stays broad through Rnd 12, then narrows toward an 18-st neck so the seated torso remains compact.
- Arms: narrow, short cylinders with softly rounded ends; they should sit high on the torso and angle slightly inward.
- Legs: broader than the arms and placed low and forward to create the large round feet visible in the reference.
- Tail: increases gradually from 6 to 18 sts. Light stuffing keeps it thick at the base but flexible enough to rest along the floor.
- Dorsal plates: use larger domes over the crown/head, medium domes down the back, and small domes on the tail for a smooth visual taper.
- Belly patch: the 36-st oval is intentionally broad and tall so it fills most of the visible front torso while remaining below the neck seam.
- Seated balance: both feet and the lower body should contact the surface. The tail may touch the surface but should not be required to hold Kiwi upright.

VISUAL TARGET	Aim for a large round head, small torso, wide feet, short arms, long low tail and a centered dark-green dorsal ridge. Avoid flattening the head or overstuffing the arms, which changes the reference silhouette.

12. Colour Changes and Surface Details

This design uses separate single-colour pieces rather than colour changes inside the main head or body. No yarn is carried across the inside of the main pieces.

Colour	Used for	Placement note
Pale green	Head, body, arms, legs, tail	Main dinosaur colour
Dark green	Foot pads and all dorsal plates	Creates the darker ridge and foot centres
Cream	Belly patch	Centered front-body applique
Pink	Cheeks	One small applique on each side of the face
Black	Smile; optional embroidered eyes	Smooth yarn/floss gives a clean facial line

SMILE EMBROIDERY

Use doubled black embroidery floss or a short strand of smooth black yarn. Center the smile on CF between Head Rnds 16 and 18. Make a shallow U-shaped curve about 5 sts wide, with the lowest point near CF. Use 2-3 small anchoring stitches so the curve stays in place. Secure and bury the ends inside the head through the open neck.

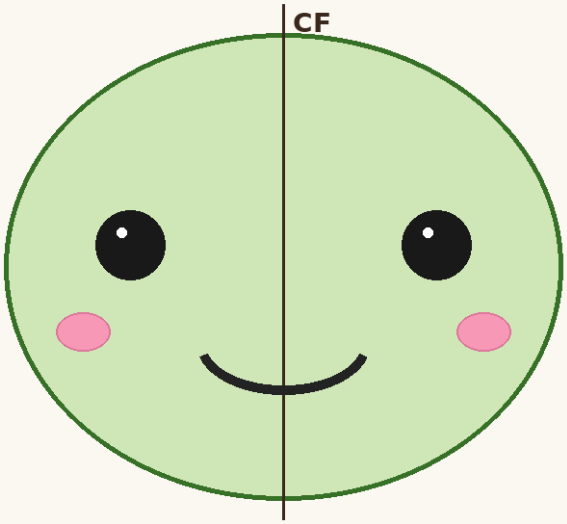
OPTIONAL EMBROIDERED EYES

Instead of safety eyes, embroider two compact black oval eyes at the marked safety-eye positions. Build each eye with several close satin-style stitches over approximately 2 sts wide and 2 rounds tall. Add one tiny cream or white stitch near the upper outer edge only if you want the glossy highlight shown in the reference.

13. Placement Maps

After stuffing, define CF from the straight-on front view and place a removable guide thread down the face and body. Mark CB directly opposite it. Right and left are Kiwi's right and left. Pin every paired piece before sewing and compare both sides.

Head and Face Placement Map



Eyes
Between Head Rnds 14-15
about 5 sts each side of CF
about 10 sts center-to-center

Cheeks
Centers near Head Rnd 17
about 7 sts each side of CF
pin after stuffing, then sew

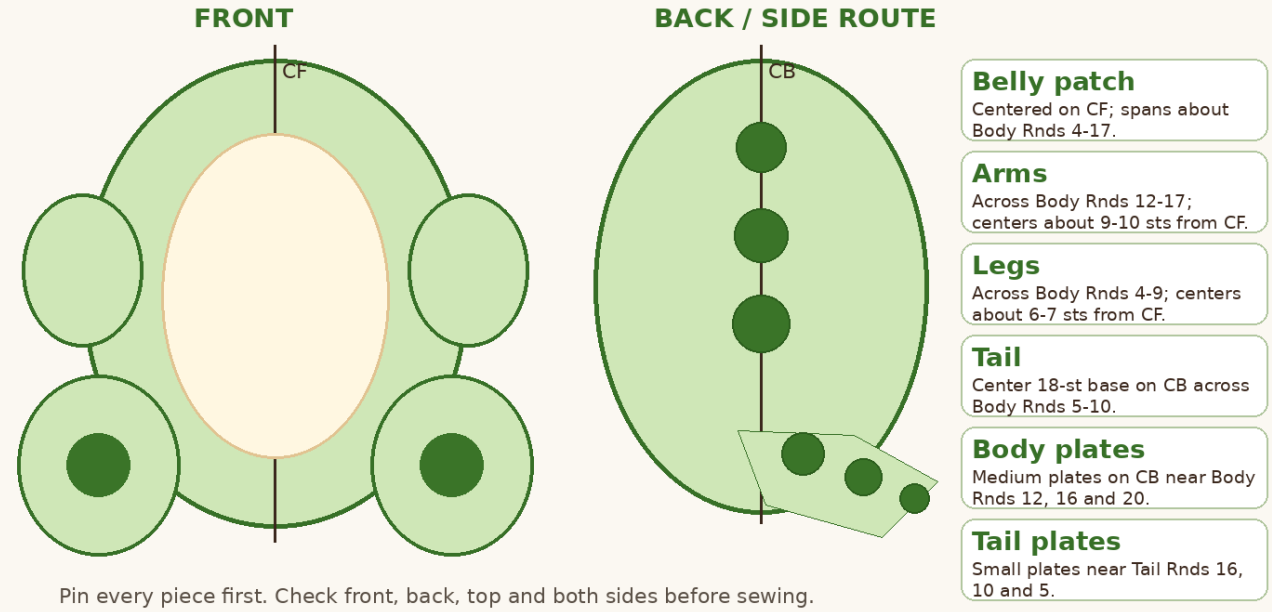
Smile
Centered on CF
between Head Rnds 16-18
about 5 sts wide; lowest point at CF

Dorsal ridge
Centered on CB, opposite the face
large plates near Head Rnds 4, 9, 14
1 medium plate near Head Rnd 19

Viewing orientation: straight-on front view. Right/left are Kiwi's right and left.

Feature	Vertical placement	Horizontal placement	Check
Eyes	Head Rnds 14-15	About 5 sts to each side of CF	About 10 sts centre-to-centre; centered between stitches is acceptable
Cheeks	Center near Head Rnd 17	About 7 sts to each side of CF	Pin after stuffing; outer edge should not wrap behind the side profile
Smile	Head Rnds 16-18	Centered on CF	About 5 sts wide; shallow U curve
Large dorsal plates	Centers near Head Rnds 4, 9, 14	Centered on CB / crown line	Keep the face and forehead clear
Medium dorsal plate #1	Center near Head Rnd 19	Centered on CB	Bridges lower back of head toward neck

Body, Tail and Plate Placement Map



Pin every piece first. Check front, back, top and both sides before sewing.

Feature	Round range	Position	Visual check
Belly patch	Body Rnds 4-17	Centered on CF	Long axis vertical; upper edge stays below neck seam
Arms	Across Body Rnds 12-17	Centers about 9-10 sts from CF	Angle slightly forward and inward
Legs	Across Body Rnds 4-9	Centers about 6-7 sts from CF	Feet point forward and slightly outward
Tail base	Across Body Rnds 5-10	Centered on CB	18-st base opening follows rear curve
Medium plates #2-4	Centers near Body Rnds 12, 16, 20	Centered on CB	Keep equal visual spacing; keep the lowest body plate fully above the tail-base seam.
Small tail plates	Near Tail Rnds 16, 10, 5	Centered on top line of tail	Largest gap nearest tail base is acceptable if needed for curve

PLACEMENT TOLERANCE

Chenille stitches are bulky, so a piece may sit best one stitch or one round away from the stated coordinate. Treat the coordinates as practical starting points: pin first, compare the front/back/top/side views, and move a piece slightly if needed to preserve symmetry and the reference silhouette.

14. Stuffing and Shaping

Piece	Stuffing level	Shaping note
Head	Firmly stuffed without stretching stitches	Add small tufts gradually. Keep the lower 2 rounds slightly softer for the neck join.
Body	Moderately-firm	Keep the base broad and flat; avoid a pear-shaped bulge at the bottom.
Arms	Light	Stuff mainly the rounded hand end; leave upper portion soft enough to flatten.

Piece	Stuffing level	Shaping note
Legs	Moderate	Keep each foot round and equal in volume; flatten only the top attachment edge.
Tail	Very light at tip; moderate at base	Keep flexible so it can rest in a gentle curve.
Dorsal plates	Light / tiny pinch	Enough to hold a dome; do not overstuff or they will look like hard balls.
Belly / cheeks / pads	None	Keep flat against the surface.

- Use many small tufts rather than one large wad to reduce lumps.
- If stuffing shows through, remove some filling or use a smaller hook on future pieces rather than stretching the fabric further.
- Before closing any flattened limb edge, confirm the amount of stuffing is final.
- Do not close the head or body neck openings before the face, stuffing and head-body alignment are complete.

OPTIONAL TAIL CURVE WITHOUT WIRE

After the tail is sewn on, bend it gently toward Kiwi's preferred side. If it springs back, use 2 small hidden shaping tacks with pale-green yarn along the inner curve, catching only surface stitches. Tighten just enough to hold the curve, then bury the yarn ends. No wire is required.

15. Assembly Instructions

1. Finish the head while the neck opening is still accessible. Confirm the eyes are level, sew on both cheeks, embroider the smile, secure every facial yarn end inside the head, then complete the head stuffing.
2. Stuff the body and mark CF/CB. Pin the cream belly patch centered on CF over about Body Rnds 4-17. Whip stitch around the outer edge with cream yarn. Keep the patch flat and smooth.
3. Sew one dark-green foot pad to the rounded front of each leg. Center the pad visually and keep both at matching heights.
4. Pin the two legs low on the body across about Body Rnds 4-9, centers roughly 6-7 sts to either side of CF. Set Kiwi on a flat surface to confirm both feet touch evenly, then sew the flattened leg edges securely to the body.
5. Pin the 18-st tail base centered on CB across about Body Rnds 5-10. Check from both sides that the tail exits straight from the lower back, then whip stitch around the entire base. Adjust the tail stuffing before the final few stitches if needed.
6. Align the 18-st head opening with the 18-st body neck opening, matching CF to CF and CB to CB. Pin at four quarter points, then sew the rings together one stitch to one stitch. Add or remove a small amount of stuffing before the last 3-4 stitches if the neck needs support.
7. Pin the arms across about Body Rnds 12-17, centers about 9-10 sts to either side of CF. Angle them slightly forward and inward. Sew the flattened closure edge of each arm to the body.
8. Pin the dorsal plates along the CB route before sewing any of them. Use 3 large plates on the crown/head near Head Rnds 4, 9 and 14; 1 medium near Head Rnd 19; 3 medium plates near Body Rnds 12, 16 and 20; and 3 small plates on the tail near Tail Rnds 16, 10 and 5.
9. Sew each dorsal plate around its open base ring. Keep the domes upright and centered over the guide line. Step back frequently to check the ridge from the front, back and both sides.
10. Remove all temporary guide threads and markers. Secure and bury every remaining yarn tail. Make the final symmetry and seated-balance checks in Section 17.

DO NOT TRAP ACCESS The head and body neck openings are your final access points for stuffing adjustment and hiding facial/assembly yarn ends. Do not complete the neck seam until the face, stuffing and CF/CB alignment are final.

16. Sewing Methods

Join	Method
Flat applique - belly, cheeks, pads	Use a small whip stitch through the outer edge loops of the applique and one surface bar of the base fabric. Pull just snug enough to remove gaps; do not cinch the base fabric.
Flattened limb edge - arms and legs	Pass the needle through the closure bar of the limb and then through 1-2 surface bars of the body. Alternate evenly across the closure edge and reinforce the first and last points.

Join	Method
Head-body ring join	Match the 18 head stitches to the 18 body stitches. Sew one-to-one through corresponding loops using the long head or body tail. Keep tension even so the neck remains round.
Tail base ring	Whip stitch around all 18 base stitches, catching a stable surface bar on the body at each step. Before the final few stitches, correct stuffing or tail angle if needed.
Dorsal plate base	Sew around the open base ring, catching only enough head/body/tail fabric to anchor the dome. Do not pull so tightly that the plate collapses.
Securing yarn tails	After the final knot, pass the needle through the stuffed piece for 4-6 cm / 1.5-2.5 in, exit at a distant point, gently stretch the fabric and trim so the tail retracts inside.

17. Final Visual Checklist

☐ Face is centered when viewed straight on.
☐ Eyes are level and spacing looks balanced.
☐ Smile is centered between the eyes and forms a shallow U.
☐ Cheeks are level and sit just outside the eyes rather than wrapping behind the head.
☐ Cream belly patch is centered, broad enough to fill most of the front torso, and lies flat.
☐ Arms are mirrored and angle slightly inward.
☐ Legs are mirrored; both feet touch the surface evenly.
☐ Dark-green foot pads face forward and sit at matching heights.
☐ Tail exits from CB, rests naturally, and points in the intended direction.
☐ Dorsal plates form one continuous centered ridge from crown to tail with no accidental forehead placement.
☐ Plate sizes taper gradually from head to tail and none twist sideways.
☐ Head is upright over the body with no visible gap at the neck seam.
☐ Kiwi sits in a stable seated pose without needing the tail as a support prop.
☐ No stuffing is visible through stitches or seams.
☐ No large gaps remain around sewn pieces.
☐ No loose seams, exposed knots, unsecured yarn tails or temporary markers remain.

KIWI IS COMPLETE Kiwi is complete when the face is centered, the limbs are mirrored, the cream belly and dark-green details are balanced, the dorsal ridge follows the crown-back-tail route, and the dinosaur sits evenly on both feet without visible stuffing or loose seams.

18. Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical fix
Stuffing shows through	Use a smaller hook or firmer tension on future pieces. For the current piece, remove a little stuffing and redistribute it in smaller tufts.
Kiwi is too large or too small	Keep the stitch counts unchanged and adjust yarn/hook choice. Larger yarn or looser gauge makes a larger plush; smaller yarn or tighter gauge makes a smaller one.
Continuous rounds twist or BOR drifts	This is normal in spiral crochet. Keep the BOR marker for counting, but use separate visual CF/CB guide markers for assembly.

Problem	Practical fix
Eyes look uneven	Before locking safety washers, compare from the front and top. If washers are already installed, adjust the cheek and smile placement to improve visual balance rather than forcing the fabric.
Smile is off-center	Remove the embroidery before burying the ends and re-center it on the CF guide line.
Head leans to one side	Check that the 18-st neck join was sewn one-to-one and that stuffing is evenly distributed. Add a small amount of stuffing through any remaining seam gap before closing.
One arm or leg sits higher	Unpick only the attachment seam and re-pin both paired pieces at matching round ranges before resewing.
Tail points the wrong way	Re-pin the base so it is centered on CB. For a mild curve, use 1-2 hidden surface tacks; no wire is needed.
Dorsal plates lean or twist	Re-pin the base so its opening straddles the CB/top guide line evenly. Sew around the full base rather than anchoring only at two points.
Gaps appear around sewn pieces	Add smaller, more frequent whip stitches through stable surface bars and keep the seam tension even.
Base becomes rounded instead of flat	Redistribute body stuffing upward and press the lower rounds flat with your palms. Avoid overstuffing the bottom center.
Holes show after decreases	Use invisible decreases through the front loops only and maintain firm tension during the decrease stitch.
Chenille yarn sheds or breaks while sewing	Use shorter lengths of the same chenille yarn and replace the strand as soon as it begins to fray. Avoid pulling repeatedly through the same stitch or surface bar. For visible seams, use a fresh matching chenille strand and keep the seam tension snug rather than tight.

19. Printing and Customer Notes

- DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ONLY - no physical item will be shipped.
- Pattern terminology: standard US crochet terms.
- Recommended print size: A4 or US Letter at 100% / Actual Size. Avoid “Fit to Page” if you want the placement diagrams to retain their intended scale relationship on the page.
- For screen use, view the PDF at a comfortable zoom and keep the placement-map pages open during assembly.
- You may make finished handmade items from this pattern for personal use or small-scale sale. When practical, credit the pattern as “Kiwi the Little Dinosaur crochet pattern.”
- You may not redistribute, resell, copy, upload, translate, share, or reproduce this pattern or substantial portions of it in any format without authorization.
- Finished measurements are calculated design targets. Final size and appearance vary with yarn, hook size, tension, stuffing, and individual technique.
- No physical prototype or test crochet was used for this digital pattern.

CUSTOMER REMINDER	Before sewing permanently, pin first and compare the front, back, top and both sides. Small one-stitch placement adjustments are normal with plush chenille yarn and are preferable to forcing a mathematically exact coordinate that looks visually off.

Happy crocheting!

Kiwi the Little Dinosaur - Complete Digital Crochet Amigurumi Pattern