GIGI THE GIRAFFE

Complete Digital Crochet Amigurumi Pattern

DIGITAL DOWNLOAD ONLY - NO PHYSICAL ITEM WILL BE SHIPPED

Skill level: Confident beginner / Intermediate | US crochet terminology



A cheerful seated giraffe with a large rounded head, long neck, soft muzzle, brown spots, pink cheeks and rounded hooves.

2. DIGITAL DOWNLOAD NOTICE

IMPORTANT | This product is a digital crochet pattern. It is not a finished amigurumi or physical toy, and no physical item will be shipped.

You will receive written crochet instructions that you must crochet, stuff, assemble and finish yourself. The finished measurements in this pattern are calculated design targets for the stated yarn, hook and tension.

SIZE NOTE | The target size is not guaranteed. A looser tension or thicker yarn produces a larger giraffe; a tighter tension or thinner yarn produces a smaller one.

3. FINISHED MEASUREMENTS

Calculated design targets using the recommended yarn, hook and firm amigurumi tension.

Feature	Target metric	Target imperial
Overall height, seated, including ossicones	29-31 cm	11.4-12.2 in
Overall width across ears	14-16 cm	5.5-6.3 in
Body depth, front to back	9-11 cm	3.5-4.3 in
Head width	9-10 cm	3.5-3.9 in
Head height, excluding ossicones	8.5-9.5 cm	3.3-3.7 in
Body + neck from base to head join	15-16.5 cm	5.9-6.5 in
Front leg length	8-9 cm	3.1-3.5 in
Hind leg length	6-7 cm	2.4-2.8 in
Muzzle, pinned oval	5.5-6.5 x 4-5 cm	2.2-2.6 x 1.6-2 in
Outer ear	3.5-4.5 x 2.8-3.5 cm	1.4-1.8 x 1.1-1.4 in
Ossicone height	3.5-4.5 cm	1.4-1.8 in
Tail, including brown tip	4.5-5.5 cm	1.8-2.2 in

The proportions are intentionally chibi: the head is large, the neck is long and narrow, and the lower body is pear-shaped so the giraffe reads as a seated plush rather than a realistic animal.

4. MATERIALS AND TOOLS

Material	Recommendation	Approx. amount
Yarn A - golden yellow	Medium / worsted #4 cotton or cotton-acrylic blend	120-140 g / 190-230 m / 210-250 yd
Yarn B - chocolate brown	Medium / worsted #4	35-45 g / 55-73 m / 60-80 yd
Yarn C - cream	Medium / worsted #4	20-25 g / 32-41 m / 35-45 yd
Yarn D - pink	Medium / worsted #4	3-5 g / 5-8 m / 5-9 yd
Embroidery yarn - dark brown	Sport/DK yarn or 6-strand embroidery floss	Small amount
Embroidery yarn - black	Sport/DK yarn or 6-strand embroidery floss	Small amount; only required for the embroidered-eye option
Embroidery yarn - white	Sport/DK yarn or 6-strand embroidery floss	Very small amount; optional for the embroidered-eye highlight

Tools

- 3.25 mm crochet hook, or the size needed to create a dense fabric with no visible stuffing.
- 14 mm black safety eyes, 1 pair. Optional range: 12-14 mm depending on yarn and tension.
- Polyester fibre filling, approximately 120-160 g.
- Tapestry needle, stitch markers, rustproof pins, scissors and measuring tape.
- Row counter, optional but helpful for the long neck rounds.
- Contrasting scrap yarn for temporary physical centre-front (CF) and centre-back (CB) guide threads.

SAFETY | Safety eyes and other rigid or detachable components may not be suitable for children under three years old. For a child-safe version, embroider the eyes securely with black yarn and avoid buttons, beads, wire and other hard parts.

5. GAUGE AND TENSION

Target gauge: approximately 22 single crochet stitches x 24 rounds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in, worked in continuous rounds with a 3.25 mm hook and firm amigurumi tension.

- Crochet firmly enough that the stuffing does not show through the stitches.
- Do not pull so tightly that it becomes difficult to insert the hook or that the fabric becomes board-like.
- If your stitches are looser than the target gauge, switch to a smaller hook before increasing stuffing density.
- If your stitches are much tighter, use a slightly larger hook so the fabric remains flexible enough to shape.
- Exact gauge affects finished size, yarn usage, eye scale and the amount of stuffing required.

GAUGE CHECK | A practical check is the head after Rnd 17. At the target gauge, the stuffed head should be about 9-10 cm / 3.5-3.9 in wide before the lower decrease section is completed.

6. CROCHET METHOD AND TERMINOLOGY

- Terminology: US crochet terms throughout.
- Main pieces are worked in continuous spiral rounds unless a closing row is specifically stated.
- Place a stitch marker in the first stitch of every round and move it after completing each round.
- The beginning-of-round (BOR) marker is used only to track round starts. Continuous spiral rounds naturally shift, so do not treat BOR as a fixed vertical centre-back line.
- For placement, establish physical centre front (CF) and centre back (CB) with contrasting guide threads after stuffing each main piece. Keep those guides independent of BOR.
- Do not turn after spiral rounds. No piece in this pattern requires turning; the leg closure rows are worked once across a flattened opening. The right side of the crochet fabric faces outward.
- The compact texture is best approximated with yarn-under single crochet: insert the hook, yarn under and pull up a loop, then yarn over and pull through both loops. Standard yarn-over sc may be used consistently instead, but size and texture may differ.
- Flat appliques are finished with a slip stitch only where instructed. Finishing slip stitches are not counted as pattern stitches.

RIGHT AND LEFT | Right and left are always described from Gigi's point of view, as if you are looking out from her face.

7. ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Meaning
MR	magic ring
ch	chain
sl st	slip stitch
sc	single crochet
inc	increase: work 2 sc in the same stitch
inv dec	invisible decrease: work the front loops of the next 2 stitches together as 1 sc
BLO	back loop only
st / sts	stitch / stitches
rnd / rnds	round / rounds
row / rows	row / rows
FO	fasten off
BOR	beginning of round
CF	physical centre front
CB	physical centre back

Unless another stitch is named, all shaping is worked in single crochet. A standard increase adds 1 stitch. An invisible decrease removes 1 stitch.

8. CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

Piece	Qty	Colour	Stuffing	Finish
Body + neck	1	Golden yellow	Firm body; moderate neck	24-st open neck
Head	1	Golden yellow	Firmly stuffed	24-st open base
Muzzle	1	Cream	Lightly stuffed	Closed by sewing to head
Outer ears	2	Golden yellow	Unstuffed	Flat/pinched
Inner ears	2	Cream	Unstuffed	Sewn to outer ears
Ossicones	2	Brown	Lightly stuffed	Open 6-st bases
Front legs	2	Brown + yellow	Moderate lower, light upper	Flattened 6-st top edge
Hind legs	2	Brown + yellow	Moderately stuffed	Flattened 6-st top edge
Tail	1	Brown + yellow	Brown tip only	Open 6-st base
Cheeks	2	Pink	Unstuffed	Flat applique
Spots	14	Brown	Unstuffed	4 small, 6 medium, 4 large

All components are crocheted separately; no piece is crocheted directly onto another part. The head base and neck top remain open until the final 24-to-24 join. Orientation: the crown is the top of the head between the ossicones, the front is the muzzle side, the back is the tail side, and the underside is the bottom of the seated body.

Recommended assembly order

1. Crochet the head and pause before final stuffing to install the safety eyes or mark embroidered-eye positions.
2. Crochet the muzzle, cheeks, ears, inner ears and ossicones. Complete the muzzle, embroidered nose/mouth and upper-head details while the 24-st head base remains open.
3. Crochet and stuff the body + neck. Establish physical CF and CB guides after stuffing.
4. Sew the brown spot appliques to the head, neck and body, keeping limb seams clear.
5. Crochet the front legs, hind legs and tail. Pin and attach the hind legs, tail and front legs to the body.
6. Align the 24-st head opening to the 24-st neck opening, matching physical CF to CF and CB to CB, then sew the head to the neck.
7. Check the giraffe from every side, adjust stuffing if needed, then secure and bury all yarn tails.

9. COMPLETE WRITTEN CROCHET PATTERN

BEFORE YOU START | Move the BOR marker after every spiral round. When a colour changes, complete the final yarn-over of the previous stitch with the new colour for a cleaner transition.

A. Body + neck - make 1 in Yarn A (golden yellow)

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	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)
9-13	Sc in each st around.	(48)
14	(Sc in next 6 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	(42)
15	Sc in each st around.	(42)
16	(Sc in next 5 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	(36)
17	Sc in each st around.	(36)
18	(Sc in next 4 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	(30)
19	Sc in each st around.	(30)
20	(Sc in next 3 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	(24)
21-37	Sc in each st around.	(24)

Begin stuffing after Rnd 12. Keep the lower body firm with a flatter base; stuff the long neck moderately firmly so it supports the head without becoming rigid. After Rnd 37, FO with a 45 cm / 18 in sewing tail and leave all 24 stitches open.

B. Head - make 1 in Yarn A (golden yellow)

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	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	(Sc in next 8 sts, inc in next st) 6 times.	(60)
11-17	Sc in each st around.	(60)
18	(Sc in next 8 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	(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)

After Rnd 17, establish physical CF independently of BOR. Insert 14 mm safety eyes between Rnds 14 and 15, with centres about 12 sts apart total (about 6 sts each side of CF). Check from the front before securing. For embroidered eyes, mark both centres with pins instead. Stuff firmly during the decreases. After Rnd 23, FO with a 45 cm / 18 in tail and leave the 24-st base open.

C. Muzzle - make 1 in Yarn C (cream)

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
Foundation	Ch 8. Work around both sides of the chain.	-
1	Sc in 2nd ch and next 5 ch, 3 sc in last ch; along underside, sc in next 5 loops, 2 sc in final loop.	(16)
2	Inc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, inc in next 3 sts, sc in next 5 sts, inc in next 2 sts.	(22)
3	Sc 1, inc; sc 5; (sc 1, inc) 3 times; sc 5; (sc 1, inc) 2 times.	(28)
4	Sc 2, inc; sc 5; (sc 2, inc) 3 times; sc 5; (sc 2, inc) 2 times.	(34)
5	Sc in each st around; FO with a 35 cm / 14 in tail. Do not stuff yet.	(34)

D. Embroidered nose and mouth — dark-brown embroidery yarn

Do not crochet a separate nose piece. After the cream muzzle has been sewn and lightly stuffed, centre the embroidery on physical CF. Make two short mirrored curved or diagonal dark-brown stitches on the upper centre of the muzzle, each approximately 7-9 mm / 0.3 in long, angled inward so their inner ends meet near CF. From the meeting point, make one short vertical stitch downward approximately 6-8 mm / 0.25-0.3 in. Secure the yarn and bury the ends inside the head. Do not add a crocheted brown oval or broad smile curves.

E. Outer ear - make 2 in Yarn A (golden yellow)

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
Foundation	Ch 6. Work around both sides of the chain.	-
1	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and next 3 ch, 3 sc in last ch; working along underside, sc in next 3 loops, 2 sc in last loop.	(12)
2	Inc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, inc in next 3 sts, sc in next 3 sts, inc in next 2 sts.	(18)
3	Sc in each st around.	(18)

FO with a 30 cm / 12 in sewing tail. Do not stuff.

F. Inner ear - make 2 in Yarn C (cream)

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
Foundation	Ch 4. Work around both sides of the chain.	-
1	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next ch, 3 sc in last ch; working along underside, sc in next loop, 2 sc in last loop.	(8)
2	Inc in next st, sc in next st, inc in next 3 sts, sc in next st, inc in next 2 sts.	(14)

FO with a 20 cm / 8 in sewing tail. Sew one inner ear to the centre of each outer ear, leaving an even yellow border. Pinch the outer-ear base in half and secure the pinch with 2-3 small stitches before attaching to the head.

G. Ossicone - make 2 in Yarn B (brown)

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	6 sc in MR.	(6)
2	Inc in each st around.	(12)
3	Sc in each st around.	(12)
4	Inv dec 6 times.	(6)
5-9	Sc in each st around.	(6)

Lightly stuff the round tip and add only a small amount to the stem. FO with a 25 cm / 10 in sewing tail. Leave the 6-st base open.

H. Front leg - make 2

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	With Yarn B, 6 sc in MR.	(6)
2	Inc in each st around.	(12)
3-4	Sc in each st around.	(12)
5	Change to Yarn A. BLO sc in each st around.	(12)
6-18	Sc in each st around.	(12)
19	Flatten the opening. Sc through both layers across 6 pairs of stitches.	(6)

Stuff the hoof and lower two-thirds moderately. Keep the top 2-3 rounds lightly stuffed so the arm lies naturally against the body. FO with a 30 cm / 12 in sewing tail.

I. Hind leg - make 2

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	With Yarn B, 6 sc in MR.	(6)
2	Inc in each st around.	(12)
3	(Sc in next st, inc in next st) 6 times.	(18)
4-5	Sc in each st around.	(18)
6	Change to Yarn A. BLO sc in each st around.	(18)
7-10	Sc in each st around.	(18)
11	(Sc in next st, inv dec) 6 times.	(12)
12-14	Sc in each st around.	(12)
15	Flatten the opening. Sc through both layers across 6 pairs of stitches.	(6)

Stuff the brown hoof firmly and the yellow upper leg moderately. Add slightly more stuffing toward the front of the hoof so it faces forward when the leg is sewn to the body. FO with a 35 cm / 14 in sewing tail.

J. Tail - make 1

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	With Yarn B, 6 sc in MR.	(6)
2	Inc in each st around.	(12)
3	Sc in each st around.	(12)
4	Inv dec 6 times.	(6)
5	Change to Yarn A. Sc in each st around.	(6)
6-11	Sc in each st around.	(6)

Stuff the brown tip only. Leave the yellow stem unstuffed or barely stuffed so it curves naturally. FO with a 25 cm / 10 in sewing tail and leave the 6-st base open.

K. Cheek - make 2 in Yarn D (pink)

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	6 sc in MR. Pull the ring snug.	(6)

Sl st to the first sc to neaten the edge; do not count the slip stitch. FO with a 15 cm / 6 in sewing tail. Leave unstuffed.

L. Small spot - make 4 in Yarn B (brown)

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	6 sc in MR.	(6)

Sl st to finish, FO with a sewing tail. Leave unstuffed.

M. Medium spot - make 6 in Yarn B (brown)

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	6 sc in MR.	(6)
2	Inc in each st around.	(12)

Sl st to finish, FO with a sewing tail. Leave unstuffed.

N. Large spot - make 4 in Yarn B (brown)

Rnd/Row	Instruction	Sts
1	6 sc in MR.	(6)
2	Inc in each st around.	(12)
3	(Sc in next st, inc in next st) 6 times.	(18)

Sl st to finish, FO with a sewing tail. Leave unstuffed. For a more organic look, gently stretch each spot into a slightly different oval before pinning.

10. STITCH-COUNT VALIDATION

Piece	Verified count path
Body + neck	6 -> 12 -> 18 -> 24 -> 30 -> 36 -> 42 -> 48 -> 42 -> 36 -> 30 -> 24; 24-st neck plateau
Head	6 -> 12 -> 18 -> 24 -> 30 -> 36 -> 42 -> 48 -> 54 -> 60 -> 54 -> 48 -> 42 -> 36 -> 30 -> 24 open base
Muzzle	16 -> 22 -> 28 -> 34 -> 34
Outer ear	12 -> 18 -> 18
Inner ear	8 -> 14
Ossicone	6 -> 12 -> 12 -> 6 -> 6
Front leg	6 -> 12 plateau -> 6-st flattened closure
Hind leg	6 -> 12 -> 18 plateau -> 12 -> 6-st flattened closure
Tail	6 -> 12 -> 12 -> 6 -> 6
Cheek	6
Spots	Small 6 | Medium 6 -> 12 | Large 6 -> 12 -> 18

All repeated increase and decrease sequences consume the full starting round and produce the stated final stitch count. Colour changes and BLO rounds do not change stitch counts. Finishing slip stitches on flat appliques are not counted.

11. SHAPING AND PROPORTIONS

- Head-to-body ratio: keep the head noticeably oversized. Do not compress the head while stuffing to make it narrower than the body.
- Neck: the 24-st neck should remain long and cylindrical. Stuff moderately firmly so it supports the head but retains a soft plush feel.
- Body: the lower body should be pear-shaped with a broad seated base and a gradual taper into the neck.
- Muzzle: sew the oval low on the face and add only light stuffing so it projects softly without becoming a hard ball.
- Front legs: keep slim and mostly straight. Attach them close to the centre front so they hang down in front of the body.
- Hind legs: keep visibly wider than the front legs and angle the brown hooves forward to create the seated pose.
- Ears: pinch each base before sewing so the ear forms a shallow cup. Angle them slightly upward and outward, not flat against the head.
- Ossicones: keep parallel or very slightly outward; avoid a wide V-shape.
- Tail: allow the flexible yellow stem to curve slightly downward or to one side, with the brown tip visible from the side/back.
- Seated balance: the two hind hooves and the broad lower body should form the primary base. The front hooves may touch the surface but should not force the body backward.

VISUAL TARGET | The silhouette should read as: round head -> narrow long neck -> small pear body -> four rounded hooves. If any transition looks abrupt, reshape with stuffing before closing or sewing permanently.

12. COLOUR CHANGES AND SURFACE DETAILS

Clean colour changes

For the hoof-to-leg and tail-tip changes, work the final yarn-over of the last stitch in the old colour using the new colour. Continue with the new colour. On the next round, the BLO instruction creates a clean edge at the top of each hoof.

Cut the unused colour after the change and secure it inside the piece. Do not carry brown yarn through the long yellow sections.

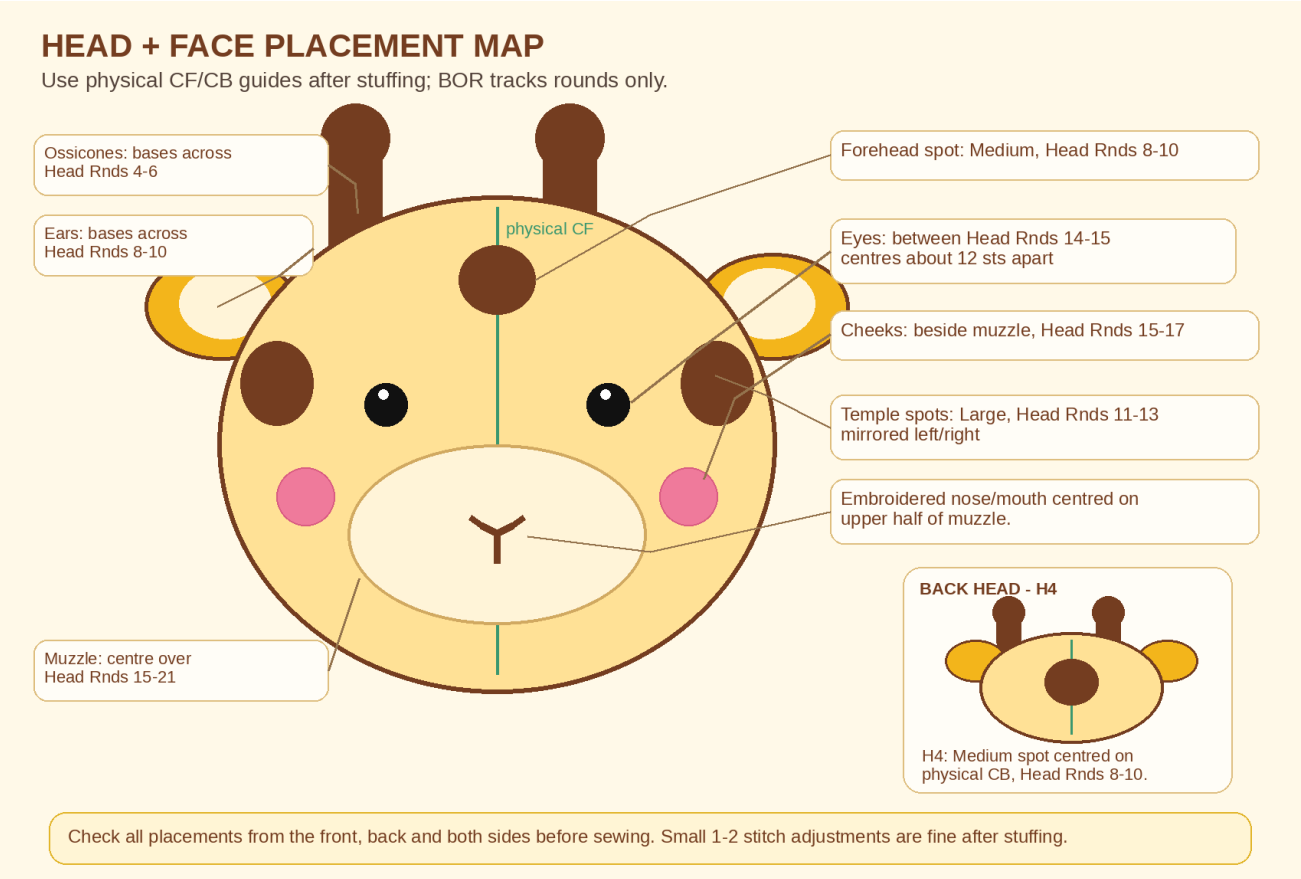
Brown spot allocation and placement

ID	Size	Area	Placement
H1	Medium	Head	Forehead, centred on physical CF over Rnds 8-10.
H2	Large	Head	Left temple, centred over Rnds 11-13, about 11-13 sts left of physical CF.
H3	Large	Head	Right temple, mirror H2.
H4	Medium	Head	Upper back head, centred on physical CB over Head Rnds 8-10.
N1	Medium	Neck	Upper front neck, centred on physical CF over Body Rnds 30-32.
N2	Small	Neck	Left-front neck over Body Rnds 26-27, about 4-5 sts left of CF.
N3	Medium	Neck	Right-front neck over Body Rnds 23-25, about 5-6 sts right of CF.
N4	Small	Neck	Upper back neck over Body Rnds 27-29, centred slightly left of physical CB.
B1	Large	Body	Left hip, centred over Body Rnds 9-12, about 9-11 sts left of CF.
B2	Large	Body	Right hip, mirror B1.
B3	Medium	Body	Lower front body over Body Rnds 11-13, about 4-6 sts right of CF.
B4	Medium	Body	Lower back body over Body Rnds 8-10, close to physical CB but clear of the tail base.
B5	Small	Body	Left side over Body Rnds 14-16, clear of the front-leg seam.
B6	Small	Body	Right side over Body Rnds 15-17, clear of the front-leg seam.

SPOT CHECK | Pin all spots before sewing. After stuffing, a shift of 1-2 rounds or stitches is acceptable when needed to keep spots visible, balanced and clear of limb seams. Do not mirror every body spot perfectly; the overall arrangement should look natural while the head temple pair remains symmetrical.

13. PLACEMENT MAPS

For both the head and body, use BOR only for round tracking. After stuffing, choose the most balanced front view and run a removable contrasting guide thread vertically along physical CF. Place a second guide directly opposite at physical CB. Use these physical guides for all placement. Sewn appliques are positioned visually over the stated round ranges and may straddle stitch columns; only safety-eye posts require a precise gap between stitches.



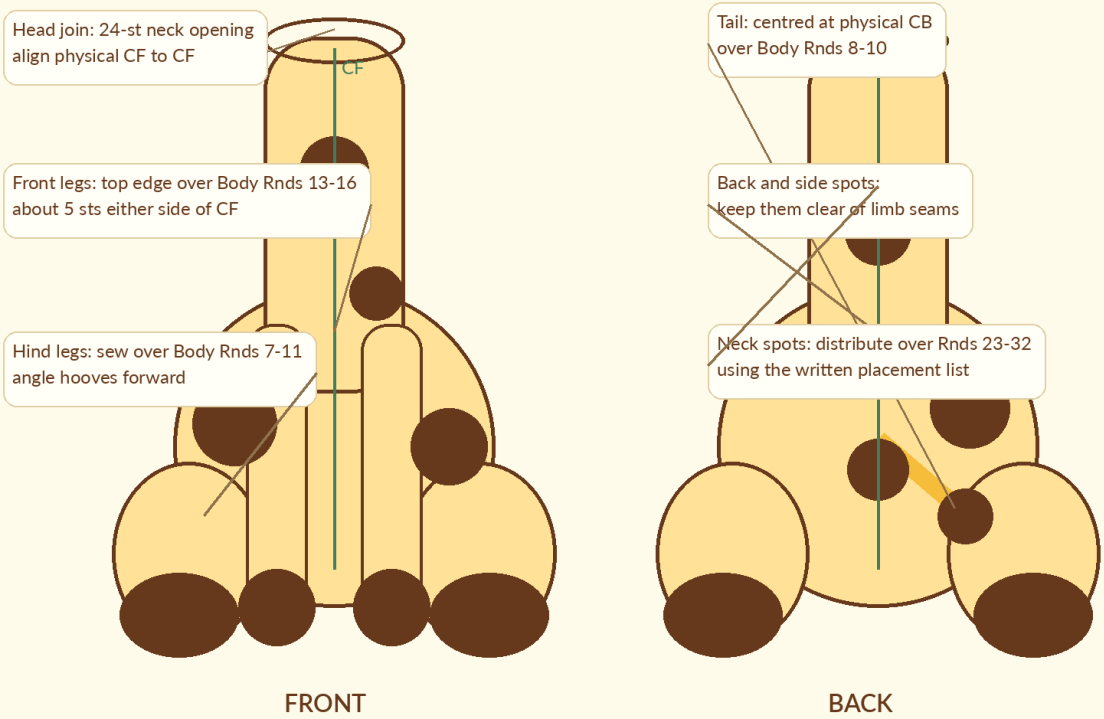
Written head and face coordinates

Feature	Placement
Eyes	Between Head Rnds 14-15; centres about 12 sts apart total, approximately 6 sts each side of physical CF. Insert each safety-eye post through the gap between stitches at the marked centre, not through a yarn strand. Embroidered option: satin stitch a 10-12 mm vertical black oval at each mark with 4-6 parallel passes; add one tiny white highlight stitch if desired.
Muzzle	Centre the cream oval over Head Rnds 15-21, with the long axis horizontal and equal width on both sides of CF.
Nose + mouth	Do not attach a crocheted nose. On the upper centre of the cream muzzle, embroider two short mirrored dark-brown curved/diagonal stitches, each approximately 7-9 mm / 0.3 in long, meeting near physical CF. From their meeting point, add one short vertical stitch downward approximately 6-8 mm / 0.25-0.3 in. Secure inside the head.
Cheeks	Place the pink circles beside the lower outer edges of the muzzle over about Head Rnds 15-17; keep them level.
Ears	Sew pinched bases across Head Rnds 8-10, about 10-12 sts left and right of CF. Angle 25-35 degrees upward/outward.

Feature	Placement
Ossicones	Sew the 6-st bases across Head Rnds 4-6, about 3-4 sts left and right of CF. Keep heights even.

BODY + LIMB PLACEMENT MAP

Right/left are from Gigi's point of view. Establish physical CF and CB independently of BOR.



Pin first, then check Gigi from front, back, both sides, and underneath before sewing permanently.

Written body coordinates

Feature	Placement
Head-to-neck join	Match the 24 open stitches of the head to the 24 open stitches of the neck, aligning physical CF to CF and CB to CB.
Front legs	Sew each flattened 6-st top edge over Body Rnds 13-16, approximately 5 sts to each side of CF. Legs should hang nearly parallel.
Hind legs	Sew each 6-st top edge over Body Rnds 7-11, approximately 10-12 sts to each side of CF. Angle hooves forward and slightly outward.
Tail	Sew the 6-st open base centred at physical CB over Body Rnds 8-10. Curve the flexible stem slightly down or to either side.
Neck/body spots	Use N1-N4 and B1-B6 from Section 12. Keep spots at least 1 stitch away from major limb seams when possible.
Viewing check	Pin all four legs and the tail, set the giraffe upright, then check from front, back, both sides and underneath before sewing permanently.

14. STUFFING AND SHAPING

Piece	Stuffing level	Shaping guidance
Head	Firm without stretching stitches	Keep crown round and cheeks full. Add small tufts around the eye area rather than one dense lump.
Muzzle	Light	Sew about three-quarters around first, add a small amount, then finish the seam. Keep softly rounded.
Body	Firm lower body	Keep the base broad and reasonably flat. Do not overstuff the narrowing transition into the neck.
Neck	Moderately firm	Add stuffing in small sections with a blunt tool or finger. Keep the tube straight, not overpacked.
Front legs	Moderate lower, light upper	Keep the top flexible so the arms lie naturally against the body.
Hind legs	Moderate	Keep brown hooves rounded. Add a little more filling toward the front of each hoof.
Ossicones	Light	Fill tips; use very little in stems so they do not become stiff.
Tail	Brown tip only	Leave yellow stem unstuffed or barely stuffed for a soft curve.
Ears, cheeks, spots	None	Keep flat; shape by pinning and sewing.

- Stuff in small pinches to reduce lumps.
- If stuffing shows through, remove some stuffing before adding more tension to the seam.
- Keep the final 1-2 rounds near an opening slightly less stuffed until the seam is complete; adjust through the remaining gap if needed.
- Do not close the head or neck openings before the safety eyes and internal yarn tails are secured.

15. ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

1. Head preparation: Insert the safety eyes between Head Rnds 14-15 or mark embroidered-eye positions. Stuff the head firmly while keeping the 24-st base open.
2. Embroidered-eye option: If you did not use safety eyes, satin stitch a small vertical black oval at each marked eye centre, about 10-12 mm high, using 4-6 parallel passes. Add one tiny white highlight stitch if desired. Secure and bury the yarn through the open head base.
3. Muzzle: Pin the cream oval centred over Head Rnds 15-21. Use small ladder stitches through the muzzle edge and the head surface. Leave the final 2-3 cm / about 1 in open, add light stuffing, then close the seam.
4. Embroidered nose and mouth: After the muzzle is sewn and lightly stuffed, use dark-brown embroidery yarn to make two short mirrored curved or diagonal stitches on the upper centre of the muzzle, approximately 7-9 mm / 0.3 in long. Angle them inward so they meet near physical CF. From the meeting point, make one short vertical stitch downward approximately 6-8 mm / 0.25-0.3 in. Secure and bury the embroidery yarn inside the head.
5. Cheeks: Pin the two pink circles level beside the muzzle and sew flat around their outer edges.
6. Ears: Sew one cream inner ear to each yellow outer ear. Pinch and secure the bases. Pin to Head Rnds 8-10, confirm mirrored angles, then sew firmly around each base.
7. Ossicones: Pin to Head Rnds 4-6, check equal height from the front and back, then sew the 6-st open bases to the head.
8. Head spots: Pin H1-H4 before sewing. Place H1 at the front forehead, H2 and H3 at the mirrored temples, and H4 centred on the upper physical back of the head. Check the arrangement from front, back and both sides, then sew around the outer stitch loops with matching brown yarn. Keep the appliques flat.
9. Body spots: After the body and neck are fully stuffed, establish physical CF/CB guides. Pin N1-N4 and B1-B6, then sew them flat, leaving limb seam areas clear.
10. Hind legs: Pin over Body Rnds 7-11. Set Gigi on a flat surface and rotate the hooves forward. Sew the flattened top edges and the upper side edges for a stable seated pose.
11. Tail: Pin the 6-st base at physical CB over Body Rnds 8-10. Sew securely, leaving the yellow stem flexible and the brown tip visible from the side/back.
12. Front legs: Pin the flattened 6-st top edges over Body Rnds 13-16, about 5 sts each side of CF. Check that the legs hang evenly and the hooves point forward, then sew.
13. Head-to-neck join: Match the two 24-st openings one-to-one with physical CF aligned to CF and CB to CB. Whip stitch through both loops of one head stitch and one neck stitch at a time around all 24 pairs. Before closing the last 2-3 cm / about 1 in, adjust neck and lower-head stuffing. Finish the seam.
14. Final finish: Remove all temporary CF/CB guide threads, check symmetry from all views, secure every seam, and bury all yarn tails through the stuffed interior.

PIN FIRST | Do not rely on a single front view. Before sewing each major piece, check the giraffe from the front, back, both sides, top and underside.

16. SEWING METHODS

Join	Recommended method	How to work it
Head to neck	Whip stitch through both loops	Pass through one head stitch and the matching neck stitch; tighten evenly without cinching the neck opening.
Muzzle	Ladder stitch / surface attachment	Catch the outer edge of the muzzle and a small horizontal bar of the head fabric. Pull only until the seam disappears.
Ears and ossicones	Whip stitch around open/pinched base	Take repeated small stitches through the base edge and head surface. Reinforce the first and last 2-3 stitches.
Front and hind legs	Mattress or whip stitch	Sew the flattened top edge first, then add short side stitches where needed to control angle and prevent wobble.
Tail	Whip stitch around 6-st open base	Keep the yellow stem free; do not stitch several rounds up the tail.
Spots and cheeks	Surface applique stitch	Catch only the outer stitch loops of the applique and shallow bars of the base fabric so the pieces remain flat.
Nose + mouth	Surface embroidery	Work two short mirrored curved/diagonal stitches meeting near CF, then one short vertical stitch downward from their meeting point. Secure and bury the yarn inside the head.

- Pin first and use the same yarn colour as the piece being attached whenever possible.
- Do not pull seams so tightly that the body fabric puckers.
- To bury a yarn tail, run the needle through the stuffed piece for 3-5 cm / 1.2-2 in, exit at a distant point, gently tension, trim close and massage the fabric so the cut end retracts inside.

17. FINAL VISUAL CHECKLIST

[ ] Face is centred and balanced on physical CF.
[ ] Eyes are level and the spacing suits the wide muzzle.
[ ] Embroidered nose/mouth markings are centred on the cream muzzle.
[ ] Muzzle sits straight and is softly projected, not overstuffed.
[ ] Pink cheeks are level and visible from the front.
[ ] Ears are symmetrical and angled upward/outward at matching heights.
[ ] Ossicones are equal in height and approximately parallel.
[ ] Front legs are aligned and hooves face forward.
[ ] Hind legs sit at matching heights and support the seated pose.
[ ] Tail is centred at lower physical CB and points naturally.
[ ] Brown spots are distributed over head, neck, body and back without crowding seams.
[ ] The giraffe sits upright without the head leaning strongly to one side.
[ ] No stuffing is visible through stitches or decreases.
[ ] No large crochet holes are visible around attachment seams.
[ ] No loose seams, exposed knots, safety-eye hardware or unsecured yarn tails remain.
[ ] All temporary markers and physical CF/CB guide threads have been removed.

18. TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Practical fix
Stuffing shows through	Use a smaller hook or reduce stuffing. Dense stitches should close naturally without forcing extra tension into the seam.
Finished giraffe is too large or small	Keep the same stitch counts. Change hook size and/or yarn thickness rather than altering shaping rounds.
Continuous rounds look twisted	Check that you are not accidentally adding or skipping stitches. A drifting BOR is normal in a spiral; physical CF/CB guides control placement.
Visible colour-change step at hoof	Change colour on the final yarn-over of the preceding stitch and keep the first new-colour round even. The BLO round helps define a clean edge.
Eyes are uneven	Before securing washers, count from physical CF and compare from front, top and both sides. For embroidery, mark both eye centres first.
Muzzle is off-centre	Remove pins and re-centre the long oval axis on physical CF. Check equal head fabric is visible to both sides.
Head leans to one side	Redistribute neck stuffing and recheck the 24-to-24 seam tension. Add a small amount of stuffing through the final seam gap if needed.
One leg looks longer	Check attachment round height before restitching the crochet piece itself. Small differences often come from seam placement rather than row count.
One ear or ossicone sits higher	Unpick only the attachment seam and repin using matching head rounds. Compare from the front and back.
Ossicone leans or twists	Reduce stuffing in the stem, repin the 6-st base flat to the crown and add two small reinforcement stitches on the leaning side.
Tail points upward or twists	Use less stuffing in the yellow stem and sew only the 6-st base, allowing the stem to hang freely.
Gaps around sewn pieces	Use smaller, more frequent stitches and catch shallow bars of the body fabric instead of spanning multiple rounds.
Attachments feel loose	Add a second reinforcement pass through the base edge, then secure the yarn inside the stuffed piece.
Base becomes rounded	Remove some central lower-body stuffing and redistribute it toward the outer lower sides. Keep the bottom broad rather than domed.
Visible holes after decreases	Use invisible decreases through front loops only and keep even tension. If needed, switch down one hook size for future pieces.

19. PRINTING AND CUSTOMER NOTES

DIGITAL PRODUCT | This pattern is a digital download only. No physical item will be shipped.

- Terminology: US crochet terms.
- Recommended printing: A4 or US Letter. Print at 100% scale or use "Fit to printable area" if your printer requires margins. Avoid "Poster" or multi-page scaling modes.
- Screen use: the PDF is designed to remain readable on tablets and computers without printing.
- Personal handmade use is permitted.
- You may sell finished handmade giraffes made from this pattern in small quantities. Please do not use mass-production methods.
- The pattern file itself may not be copied, redistributed, resold, uploaded, shared, translated or republished in whole or in part without written authorization.
- Finished measurements are calculated design targets and may vary with yarn, hook size, tension, stuffing and crochet technique.
- No physical prototype or test crochet is claimed or implied by this digital pattern.

Quick yarn substitution rule

Use the same yarn weight for all colours so the muzzle, ears, hooves and spots stay proportional. If you change to a lighter or heavier yarn, change all colours together and choose a hook that produces a dense fabric.

Final reminder

Crochet is handmade and naturally variable. Follow the stitch counts exactly, then use the placement ranges, pinning steps and visual checks to keep Gigi balanced and expressive.