



MABEL THE MEADOW COW

Free Crochet Pattern

A soft spotted amigurumi cow with pink muzzle, rounded ears, tan horns and black hooves



Skill level: Confident Beginner to Intermediate

US crochet terminology | Worked mostly in continuous spiral rounds

1. About This Pattern

Mabel is a standing amigurumi cow with a rounded head, softly tapered body, oversized pink muzzle, black-and-pink ears, tan horns, black hooves and flat crocheted spots. The head and body are worked separately in continuous spiral rounds and joined at matching 30-stitch neck openings. The muzzle is lightly stuffed; ears, spots and tail shaft remain unstuffed. The limbs are stuffed more firmly at the hoof ends and kept softer near their attachment edges.

Finished Size

Measurement	Approximate size
Overall height, including horns	31-33 cm / 12.25-13 in
Ear-to-ear width	23-25 cm / 9-9.75 in
Head	11-12 cm / 4.25-4.75 in wide; about 11.5-12 cm / 4.5-4.75 in high
Body	10-11 cm / 4-4.25 in wide; about 12 cm / 4.75 in high
Muzzle	8-8.5 cm / 3.1-3.35 in wide; 5-5.5 cm / 2-2.2 in high
Arm	7.5-8 cm / 3-3.1 in long
Leg	8-8.5 cm / 3.1-3.35 in long before attachment
Outer ear	about 6.5 x 4 cm / 2.6 x 1.6 in
Horn	3.5-4 cm / 1.4-1.6 in long
Tail shaft	about 6 cm / 2.4 in, plus 2.5-3 cm / 1-1.2 in tuft

Finished size may vary depending on yarn, hook size, tension, stuffing and individual technique.

Materials and Tools

- DK / light worsted (#3) smooth yarn, preferably cotton or a cotton blend: cream 140-160 g / 350-400 m; black 55-70 g / 140-175 m; soft pink 30-40 g / 75-100 m; tan 12-18 g / 30-45 m.
- 3.0 mm crochet hook, or the size needed to obtain a firm fabric with no stuffing showing.
- Two 14 mm black safety eyes, or black yarn for embroidered eyes.
- Polyester fiberfill, approximately 180-220 g.
- Tapestry needle, locking stitch markers, rust-resistant pins, scissors and measuring tape.

Safety note: Safety eyes and other small or rigid components can present a choking hazard and may not be suitable for young children. If you prefer an eye finish without rigid components, use the embroidered-eye option described in this pattern. Removing rigid eye components does not by itself establish that the finished amigurumi is child-safe; suitability depends on the materials, construction, finishing and intended use.

2. Gauge, Terms and Construction

Gauge and Tension

Using cream yarn and a 3.0 mm hook, aim for approximately 22 sc x 24 rnds = 10 x 10 cm / 4 x 4 in in continuous spiral rounds. The fabric should feel firm and dense. If stuffing is visible between stitches, use a smaller hook or tighten tension. If the fabric feels rigid and difficult to work, use a slightly larger hook.

Flat spot motifs should lie flat before sewing. If they cup strongly, loosen tension slightly; if they ripple, tighten tension slightly.

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
MR	magic ring
ch	chain

Abbreviation	Meaning
sc	single crochet
inc	2 sc in the same stitch
inv dec	invisible single crochet decrease over the next 2 stitches
st / sts	stitch / stitches
rnd / rnds	round / rounds
BOR	beginning of round
FO	fasten off

Method and Orientation

- All amigurumi rounds are worked in a continuous spiral unless a section specifically says otherwise. Do not join at the end of a round.
- Place a marker in the first stitch of every round. Move the marker up as each round is completed.
- For the head, once Rnd 14 is complete, treat the BOR line as center back. The point directly opposite is center front.
- For the body, once Rnd 12 is complete, treat the BOR line as center back. The point directly opposite is center front.
- Right and left are described from the finished cow's point of view. When looking at the cow face-to-face, the cow's right is on your left.
- Use an invisible decrease: insert the hook through the front loop of each of the next 2 sts, yarn over and pull through both front loops, yarn over and complete the sc.

Construction Overview

Piece	Make	Stuffing / finish
Head	1	Firmly stuffed; leave 30-st neck opening open.
Body	1	Firmly stuffed with a flatter base; leave 30-st neck opening open.
Muzzle	1	Lightly stuffed during attachment.
Outer ears	2	Unstuffed; add pink inner ears and pinch bases.
Inner ears	2	Unstuffed; sew flat to outer ears.
Horns	2	Lightly to moderately stuffed; bases remain open for sewing.
Arms	2	Firm hoof, light forearm, soft shoulder; flatten and close top.
Legs	2	Moderate stuffing; keep top soft; flatten and close top.
Tail	1	Unstuffed; add black yarn tuft at tip.
Head patches	2	Flat black motifs sewn before the eyes are fully secured.
Body spots	4	Flat black motifs sewn before the head is joined to the body.

3. Head

With cream yarn, begin at the crown. Work firmly, but do not pull the magic ring so tightly that the crown puckers.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	6 sc in MR.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc in next st, inc) 6 times.	18
4	(Sc in next 2 sts, inc) 6 times.	24
5	(Sc in next 3 sts, inc) 6 times.	30
6	(Sc in next 4 sts, inc) 6 times.	36
7	(Sc in next 5 sts, inc) 6 times.	42
8	(Sc in next 6 sts, inc) 6 times.	48
9	(Sc in next 7 sts, inc) 6 times.	54
10	(Sc in next 8 sts, inc) 6 times.	60
11	(Sc in next 9 sts, inc) 6 times.	66
12	(Sc in next 10 sts, inc) 6 times.	72
13	(Sc in next 11 sts, inc) 6 times.	78
14	Sc around. Mark this BOR line as center back.	78
15	Sc around.	78
16	Sc around.	78
17	Sc around. Eye line is placed on this round.	78
18	Sc around.	78
19	Sc around.	78
20	Sc around. Pause here to place the head patches and install the safety eyes, or mark the embroidered-eye centers.	78
21	(Sc in next 11 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	72
22	(Sc in next 10 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	66
23	(Sc in next 9 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	60
24	(Sc in next 8 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	54
25	(Sc in next 7 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	48
26	(Sc in next 6 sts, inv dec) 6 times. Begin firm, even stuffing.	42
27	(Sc in next 5 sts, inv dec) 6 times. Add stuffing to the cheeks and crown.	36
28	(Sc in next 4 sts, inv dec) 6 times. FO, leaving a 70 cm / 28 in sewing tail. Leave opening unclosed.	30

Head Patch Motif

Use black yarn. Work in a spiral. The same flat motif is used for all cow spots; stop after the round listed for each size.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	6 sc in MR.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc in next st, inc) 6 times.	18
4	(Sc in next 2 sts, inc) 6 times.	24
5	(Sc in next 3 sts, inc) 6 times.	30
6	(Sc in next 4 sts, inc) 6 times.	36
7	(Sc in next 5 sts, inc) 6 times.	42

- Head Patch A, large crown patch: work through Rnd 7. FO with a 60 cm / 24 in sewing tail. Gently stretch into an oval while pinning.
- Head Patch B, eye patch: work through Rnd 5. FO with a 45 cm / 18 in sewing tail.

Place the Head Patches and Eyes

1. With the head still open at the neck and worked through Rnd 20, identify center front directly opposite the BOR line.
2. Pin Head Patch A on the cow's left forehead. Its upper edge should sit near Head Rnds 5-6. Position its lower edge approximately at the boundary between Head Rnds 15 and 16, about 0.6 cm / 0.24 in above the left eye center on Rnd 17. Slant the long axis from the crown toward the cow's left temple.
3. Pin Head Patch B around the cow's right eye area, spanning approximately Head Rnds 13-20. Stretch it slightly oval rather than perfectly round.
4. Sew both patches with black yarn using small whip stitches through the outer loops of the patch and shallow bites of the cream head fabric. Keep the stitches snug but do not pull the head inward. Secure yarn ends inside the head.
5. For safety eyes, place the eye posts through Head Rnd 17. Position each eye approximately 2.3-2.5 cm / 0.9-1 in from center front, giving about 4.6-5 cm / 1.8-2 in between eye centers. The cow's right eye passes through Head Patch B; the cow's left eye passes through cream fabric. Check from the front that both eyes are level before securing the backs. For embroidered eyes, place removable markers at these same eye centers instead of installing eye posts or backs. Complete the embroidered eyes after the head is fully stuffed, as directed in Section 8.

4. Muzzle, Ears and Horns

Pink Muzzle - Make 1

With pink yarn, ch 9. Work around both sides of the foundation chain in a continuous oval.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in next 6 ch, 3 sc in last ch; working along the opposite side of the foundation chain, sc in next 6 ch, 2 sc in final ch.	18
2	Inc in first st, sc in next 6 sts, inc in next 3 sts, sc in next 6 sts, inc in next 2 sts.	24
3	(Sc in next 3 sts, inc, sc in next 3 sts, inc, sc in next 3 sts, inc) 2 times.	30
4	(Sc in next 4 sts, inc, sc in next 4 sts, inc, sc in next 4 sts, inc) 2 times.	36
5	(Sc in next 5 sts, inc, sc in next 5 sts, inc, sc in next 5 sts, inc) 2 times.	42
6	Sc around.	42

Rnd	Instruction	Count
7	Sc around. FO, leaving a 75 cm / 30 in sewing tail.	42

Outer Ear - Make 2 in Black

Ch 7. Work around both sides of the foundation chain.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in next 4 ch, 3 sc in last ch; working along the opposite side, sc in next 4 ch, 2 sc in final ch.	14
2	Inc in first st, sc in next 4 sts, inc in next 3 sts, sc in next 4 sts, inc in next 2 sts.	20
3	Sc in next 2 sts, inc, sc in next 3 sts, inc, sc in next 2 sts, inc; repeat the same sequence once more.	26
4	Sc in next 3 sts, inc, sc in next 3 sts, inc, sc in next 4 sts, inc; repeat the same sequence once more. FO, leaving a 45 cm / 18 in tail.	32

Inner Ear - Make 2 in Pink

Work the Outer Ear instructions through Rnd 3 only. FO with a 35 cm / 14 in sewing tail. (26 sts)

Horn - Make 2 in Tan

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	6 sc in MR.	6
2	Sc around.	6
3	(Sc in next st, inc) 3 times.	9
4	Sc around.	9
5	Sc around.	9
6	(Sc in next 2 sts, inc) 3 times.	12
7	Sc around.	12
8	Sc around.	12
9	Sc around. FO, leaving a 40 cm / 16 in sewing tail.	12

Stuff each horn lightly to moderately from the tip downward. Keep the base flexible enough to sit flat against the head.

Prepare the Ears

1. Center one pink Inner Ear on one black Outer Ear, leaving an even black border. The pink piece should sit slightly toward the front-facing side of the ear.
2. Sew the pink piece flat to the black piece with pink yarn, using small whip stitches around the edge. Repeat for the second ear.
3. At the narrow base of each completed ear, pinch approximately 1 cm / 0.4 in of the black edge so the two sides draw slightly together. Tack the pinch with 2-3 black yarn stitches. This gives the ear a gentle cup without stuffing.

5. Body and Body Spots

With cream yarn, begin at the center underside and work upward. The body finishes at the neck with a 30-stitch opening that matches the head opening.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	6 sc in MR.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc in next st, inc) 6 times.	18
4	(Sc in next 2 sts, inc) 6 times.	24
5	(Sc in next 3 sts, inc) 6 times.	30
6	(Sc in next 4 sts, inc) 6 times.	36
7	(Sc in next 5 sts, inc) 6 times.	42
8	(Sc in next 6 sts, inc) 6 times.	48
9	(Sc in next 7 sts, inc) 6 times.	54
10	(Sc in next 8 sts, inc) 6 times.	60
11	(Sc in next 9 sts, inc) 6 times.	66
12	(Sc in next 10 sts, inc) 6 times. Mark this BOR line as center back.	72
13	Sc around.	72
14	Sc around.	72
15	Sc around.	72
16	Sc around.	72
17	Sc around.	72
18	Sc around.	72
19	Sc around.	72
20	Sc around.	72
21	Sc around.	72
22	Sc around.	72
23	(Sc in next 10 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	66
24	(Sc in next 9 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	60
25	(Sc in next 8 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	54
26	(Sc in next 7 sts, inv dec) 6 times. Begin firm, even stuffing.	48
27	(Sc in next 6 sts, inv dec) 6 times. Add stuffing, keeping the bottom gently flattened.	42
28	(Sc in next 5 sts, inv dec) 6 times.	36
29	(Sc in next 4 sts, inv dec) 6 times. FO, leaving a 70 cm / 28 in sewing tail. Leave opening unclosed.	30

Body Spots - Make 4 in Black

Use the Head Patch Motif from Section 3 and stop after the listed round:

Spot	Work through	Suggested finished shape
Spot A - upper front, cow's left	Rnd 6 - 36 sts	Gently stretch to about 5.5 x 4.5 cm / 2.2 x 1.8 in.
Spot B - lower front, cow's right	Rnd 7 - 42 sts	Gently stretch to about 6.5 x 5 cm / 2.6 x 2 in.
Spot C - cow's left side	Rnd 5 - 30 sts	Keep mostly round, about 4.5 cm / 1.8 in.
Spot D - back/right	Rnd 4 - 24 sts	Keep small and slightly oval, about 3.5 cm / 1.4 in.

FO each spot with enough black yarn to sew around its full edge.

Place the Body Spots

1. With the body stuffed but the neck opening still accessible, identify center front directly opposite the BOR line.
2. Spot A: pin on the cow's left upper front, centered near Body Rnd 20 and about 2.5-3 cm / 1-1.2 in to the left of center front. Tilt the oval slightly upward toward the side.
3. Spot B: pin on the cow's right lower front, centered near Body Rnd 14 and about 2.5-3 cm / 1-1.2 in to the right of center front. Keep its long axis slightly diagonal.
4. Spot C: pin on the cow's left side, centered near Body Rnd 14, with roughly half the spot visible from the front three-quarter view.
5. Spot D: pin on the back/right area, centered near Body Rnd 18 and about 2 cm / 0.8 in to the right of center back.
6. Check the body from front, both sides and back. Sew each spot with black yarn using small whip stitches through the spot edge and shallow body stitches. Avoid pulling tightly enough to dent the stuffing.

6. Arms, Legs and Tail

Arm - Make 2

Begin with black yarn at the hoof end.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	6 sc in MR.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc in next st, inc) 6 times.	18
4	Sc around.	18
5	Sc around.	18
6	Sc around.	18
7	Sc around. On the last yarn-over of the final st, change to cream. Cut black, leaving a short tail to secure inside.	18
8	With cream, sc around.	18
9	Sc around.	18
10	Sc around.	18
11	Sc around.	18
12	Sc around. Begin stuffing: firm in the black hoof, lighter through the cream forearm.	18

Rnd	Instruction	Count
13	Sc around.	18
14	Sc around.	18
15	(Sc in next 7 sts, inv dec) 2 times.	16
16	Sc around.	16
17	Sc around. Keep this upper section soft.	16
18	Sc around.	16
19	Flatten the opening so front and back layers lie together. Work 8 sc across, inserting the hook through both layers for every stitch. FO, leaving a 50 cm / 20 in sewing tail.	8 edge sts

Leg - Make 2

Begin with black yarn at the hoof end.

Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	6 sc in MR.	6
2	Inc in each st around.	12
3	(Sc in next st, inc) 6 times.	18
4	(Sc in next 2 sts, inc) 6 times.	24
5	Sc around.	24
6	Sc around.	24
7	Sc around.	24
8	Sc around. On the last yarn-over of the final st, change to cream. Cut black, leaving a short tail to secure inside.	24
9	With cream, sc around.	24
10	Sc around.	24
11	Sc around.	24
12	Sc around. Begin stuffing the hoof firmly and the leg moderately.	24
13	Sc around.	24
14	Sc around.	24
15	Sc around.	24
16	(Sc in next 6 sts, inv dec) 3 times.	21
17	(Sc in next 5 sts, inv dec) 3 times.	18
18	Sc around.	18
19	Sc around. Keep the top 2 rounds softer for attachment.	18
20	Sc around.	18
21	Flatten the opening so front and back layers lie together. Work 9 sc across through both layers. FO, leaving a 60 cm / 24 in sewing tail.	9 edge sts

Tail - Make 1

With cream yarn, begin at the tail tip. The tail shaft remains unstuffed.

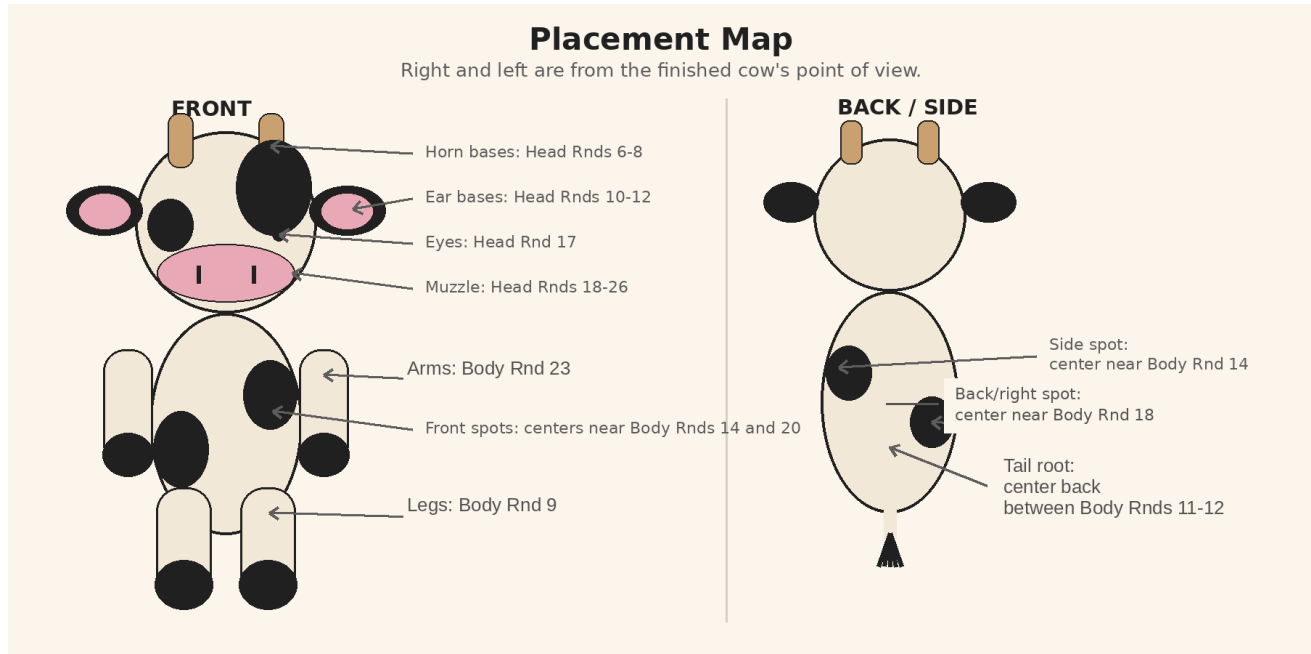
Rnd	Instruction	Count
1	6 sc in MR.	6
2	(Sc in next 2 sts, inc) 2 times.	8
3	Sc around.	8
4	Sc around.	8
5	Sc around.	8
6	Sc around.	8
7	Sc around.	8
8	Sc around.	8
9	Sc around.	8
10	Sc around.	8
11	Sc around.	8
12	Sc around.	8
13	Sc around.	8
14	Sc around.	8
15	Sc around. Flatten the opening and work 4 sc through both layers. FO, leaving a 40 cm / 16 in sewing tail.	4 edge sts

Black Tail Tuft

1. Cut 6 black yarn strands, each about 15 cm / 6 in long.
2. Fold one strand in half. Insert the crochet hook under both loops of one stitch of Tail Rnd 1, catch the folded midpoint and pull a small loop through. Pass both loose ends through that loop and tighten gently to form a lark's-head knot.
3. Repeat Step 2 with the remaining 5 strands, attaching one folded strand to each of the 6 stitches of Tail Rnd 1.
4. Gather the 12 loose ends into a compact tuft. Divide them into several small groups, twist them lightly, and trim the finished tuft to 2.5-3 cm / 1-1.2 in.

7. Placement Map

Use the map together with the written placement instructions. Pin every piece before sewing and check the cow from several angles.



Center lines: For both head and body, the BOR line is center back after the orientation round. Center front is directly opposite. Use those two lines as the anchor for all paired placement.

8. Head Assembly

Attach the Muzzle

1. Finish stuffing the head firmly enough to hold a round shape, but keep the lower face slightly softer so the muzzle can sit naturally. Do not close the 30-st neck opening. If using embroidered eyes, complete them now before attaching the muzzle. At each marked eye center, use black yarn to embroider a compact oval approximately 12-14 mm wide with repeated satin stitches. Check from the front that both eyes are level and equally spaced from center front. Secure all embroidery tails firmly inside the head through the open neck and remove the temporary eye markers.
2. Pin the pink muzzle horizontally on center front. Place its top edge around Head Rnd 18 and its bottom edge around Head Rnd 26. The muzzle should be centered under the eyes, with equal width on both sides.
3. Using the long pink tail, whip stitch the lower half of the muzzle edge to the head. Pass the needle through both loops of the muzzle edge and then through one shallow head stitch directly beneath it.
4. Before closing the upper half, add small amounts of stuffing behind the muzzle. Keep it softly rounded rather than firm. Check from the side that it projects evenly and from the front that it remains level.
5. Finish sewing around the remaining edge without overtightening. Secure the yarn inside the head and bury the tail.

Embroider the Nostrils

1. Thread a tapestry needle with black yarn. Mark two nostril positions on the muzzle, level with each other and approximately 3-3.5 cm / 1.2-1.4 in apart.
2. For each nostril, make 3-4 vertical satin stitches over an area about 8-10 mm / 0.3-0.4 in high. Keep both nostrils the same height and distance from center.
3. Bring the yarn ends into the head through the edge of the muzzle, secure them internally and bury the tails.

Attach the Ears

1. Pin one ear on each side of the head with the pink inner ear facing slightly forward. Center each pinched base around Head Rnds 10-12 at the side meridian.

2. The ear long axis should sit close to horizontal, with the outer tip slightly higher than the base. Check that both tips sit at equal height when viewed from the front.
3. Using black yarn, whip stitch through both layers of each pinched ear base and through the head fabric. Sew the attachment line twice if needed for stability, then bury the yarn tail inside the head.

Attach the Horns

1. Pin the horns on the upper crown with base centers around Head Rnds 6-8. Place them symmetrically, about 4-4.5 cm / 1.6-1.8 in apart from center to center.
2. Angle each horn outward by roughly 10-15 degrees. Check from the front and top that they mirror each other.
3. Using the tan sewing tail, whip stitch all 12 base stitches to the head, taking a shallow head stitch beneath each horn stitch. Add a small amount of stuffing before the final few stitches if the base looks hollow.

9. Join the Head and Body

1. Finish stuffing the body through its 30-st neck opening. Keep the lower body firm but maintain a gently flattened underside so the cow can balance with the legs attached.
2. Place the head directly over the body with center front aligned to center front and center back aligned to center back. The two openings both have 30 stitches.
3. Pin the openings together in four places: center front, center back, cow's right side and cow's left side. Confirm that the face points straight ahead and that the body spots are oriented correctly.
4. Using the 70 cm / 28 in sewing tail from the head, whip stitch the openings together one stitch to one stitch. For every stitch, pass through both loops of one head stitch and both loops of the matching body stitch. Leave the body's 70 cm / 28 in tail unused until the seam is complete.
5. When about 5 cm / 2 in of the seam remains, add a small amount of stuffing to the neck transition. The neck should feel supported without becoming a hard ridge.
6. Complete the seam. Secure the head sewing tail and bury it deeply inside the head or body. Thread the unused body sewing tail onto the tapestry needle, secure it into the neck seam, then bury it deeply inside the body.

Check the Join

- Front view: the muzzle is centered over the body center line.
- Side view: the head sits upright rather than tipping forward or backward.
- Top view: both ears and horns remain symmetrical after the neck seam is tightened.

10. Attach Arms, Legs and Tail

Arms

1. Pin the flattened 8-stitch top edge of each arm horizontally along Body Rnd 23 at the side meridians. The black hooves should point downward, and the arms may angle outward by about 10 degrees.
2. Check from the front that both shoulder lines begin at equal height and that the arm lengths match.
3. Using the cream sewing tail, attach each arm with a flattened two-layer seam: every sewing stitch must pass through both layers of the arm edge before entering the body. Work back across the seam a second time for a secure join, then bury the tail.

Legs

1. Set the cow upright on a flat surface. Pin the flattened 9-stitch top edge of each leg horizontally along Body Rnd 9 on the lower front. Place the leg centers approximately 2.5-2.7 cm / 1-1.05 in to either side of center front, giving about 5-5.4 cm / 2-2.1 in between centers.
2. Rotate each leg so the black hoof faces forward and both hoof color-change lines sit at the same height. The legs should be nearly vertical with only a slight outward angle.
3. Check balance before sewing. If the body leans, shift one leg a few millimeters rather than forcing the seam after sewing.

- Using the cream sewing tail, attach each 9-stitch edge through both flattened layers and then into the body. Sew back across the attachment line once more, secure and bury the tail.

Tail

- Pin the 4-stitch flattened tail root horizontally at center back along the boundary between Body Rnds 11 and 12. Let the shaft hang slightly downward and to one side.
- Sew through both layers of the flattened tail edge and into the body. Reinforce the short seam once, then bury the cream tail.
- Fluff and trim the black tuft so the strands end at an even, soft length.

11. Final Shaping and Checklist

Final Shaping

Roll the head gently between both hands to smooth the stuffing. Massage the body so the underside remains slightly flatter than the belly. Shape each hoof into a rounded block, then bend the arms and legs gently at their softer upper sections so they hang naturally. If the ears twist, dampen them very lightly, reshape with your fingers and allow them to dry flat before the final pose check.

Final Visual Checklist

- Face is centered on the body center line.
- Eyes are level and evenly spaced.
- Large forehead patch and small eye patch lie flat with no puckering.
- Muzzle is level, softly rounded and centered.
- Nostrils match in height and spacing.
- Ears are symmetrical, with pink inner ears facing forward.
- Horns are equal in height and outward angle.
- Head sits upright with no neck gaps.
- Front body spots sit at different heights, creating a natural asymmetrical cow pattern.
- Arms begin at equal shoulder height and point downward.
- Legs are evenly spaced, with both black hooves pointing forward.
- Cow stands without a strong lean.
- Tail sits at center back and the tuft is secure.
- No stuffing is visible through the fabric.
- All openings and seams are fully closed.
- All yarn tails are secured and buried.
- All stitch markers and pins have been removed.

12. Troubleshooting

Problem	Practical correction
Stuffing shows between stitches	Use a smaller hook for the next piece or tighten tension. On the current piece, reduce stuffing pressure and redistribute it away from stretched areas.
Head looks too tall or too narrow	Check the 22 sc x 24 rnd gauge. A tighter stitch gauge with the same round gauge makes the head narrower; a looser round gauge makes it taller.
Body base is too round to balance	Massage stuffing upward from the center underside and press the bottom gently against a flat surface. Keep the lower body firm but not overfilled.
Head leans after joining	Open a short section of the neck seam on the compressed side, redistribute neck stuffing, realign center front and resew one stitch to one stitch.
Muzzle sits crooked	Remove only the affected section of muzzle stitching, repin using the eye midpoint as the center, then resew without pulling the edge tight.

Problem	Practical correction
Eyes appear uneven	For safety eyes, check both positions from several angles before securing the backs. If the backs are already secured, correct minor visual imbalance with muzzle positioning and nearby stuffing rather than pulling on the eye posts. For embroidered eyes, compare both marked centers before stitching; if necessary, remove and rework the affected embroidery before the head is joined to the body.
One ear sits higher	Repin the higher ear so both attachment bases span the same head rounds. Match the outer-tip height before sewing.
Horn tilts forward	Reopen the front few base stitches, add a small amount of stuffing to the rear base and resew with the horn angled outward.
A spot cups or puckers	Remove a few sewing stitches, flatten the motif and resew with shallower body bites. The spot edge should rest on the surface rather than cinching it.
Visible color-change jog at a hoof	Keep the BOR on the least visible side of the limb and tighten the first cream stitch. During assembly, rotate the jog slightly toward the inner/back side.
Arms twist outward	The flattened 8-stitch shoulder edge should be sewn on a short horizontal line. Reposition the edge rather than extending the seam vertically.
Feet point sideways	Rotate each leg before sewing so the flattened 9-stitch top edge is horizontal and the broad black hoof faces forward.
Tail droops from the root	Reinforce the 4-stitch attachment line with a second pass through both tail layers and the same body area.
Overall size differs from the measurements	Check stitch gauge and round gauge separately. Yarn thickness, hook size, tension and stuffing all affect final size.

Finish

Give the cow one final front, side, back and top-view check. Smooth the yarn surface with your fingertips, trim only stray fiber ends that are not structural, and reshape the hooves so the cow rests evenly on a flat surface.