



Ann's Orchard Needlework

Easter Bunny Basket

Finished size approximately 20cm x 25cm

Crochet time approximately 4 hours

Easter is fast approaching and this year many of us are finding ourselves at home with a little more time on our hands than usual. I thought an Easter bunny basket could be a good make to keep your hands busy, use up some of your stash and ultimately to store a few chocolate goodies.

Emma Pavier x



Ingredients

The listed materials are simply a guide to crochet the Easter bunny basket shown in the picture and do not need to be followed exactly as the tension is not critical.....raid your stash!

I would suggest using quite a stiff yarn for the main basket, handle and ears to help retain the shape, but the flowers can be made of any scraps you may have hidden away at the back of a drawer.

For the Basket, Handle, Ears & Cheeks

- 2 balls DMC Natura XL Super Chunky 100% cotton (75m per 100g ball) in white
- 6mm (J) crochet hook and optional 8mm (L) crochet hook

For the Nose & Flowers

- Small quantities of DMC Natura Just Cotton (155m per 50g ball) in range of pinks
- 3mm crochet hook

Extras

- Black buttons or beads for eyes
- Small quantity of white sewing thread
- Tapestry and sewing needles

Abbreviations

All instructions are written using UK terms

- Stitch/es (st/sts)
- Chain stitch (ch)
- Slip stitch (ss)
- Double crochet (dc)
- Treble Crochet (tr)
- Turning chain (tch)
- Double crochet decrease (dc2tog) – Insert hook through next stitch, yarn over and draw through loop, repeat through next stitch to give 3 loops on the hook, yarn over and pull through all three loops.
- Treble crochet decrease (tr2tog) – Yarn over, insert hook through next stitch, yarn over and pull through to give three stitches on the hook, yarn over and pull through the first two stitches, yarn over and insert hook through next stitch, yarn over and pull through the first two stitches to give three stitches on the hook, yarn over and pull through all three stitches.
- Yarn over (yo) – Place the hook underneath the yarn strand and hook the yarn from below
- Yarn under (yu) – Place the hook over the yarn strand and hook the yarn from above

For the majority of the design you will work your stitches using the normal yarn over technique. However, when making the first round of double crochet stitches into the magic circle the yarn under technique ensures the central hole closes more tightly.

Making your Easter Bunny Basket

UK crochet terms



Tension

The tension is not too critical, you will simply get a different sized bunny, but use the same weight of yarn for the basket, handle and ears to make sure they fit together when finished. Use a finer weight of yarn for the flowers as they need to appear delicate against the chunkier basket.

Notes

The main body of the basket and the handle are worked in a continuous spiral without closing each round with a slip stitch. It can be helpful, but not essential, to use a stitch marker to identify the start of each new round, moving it up as you work.

Main body of bunny basket (make one)

- Starting at the base of the basket, use an 8mm hook and white DMC Natura XL, to make a magic loop
- **Round 1** – Make a single turning chain (does not count as a stitch), 6dc (yarn under) into loop, pull tight (6 sts)
Switch to 6mm hook and work all stitches as yarn over from this point
- **Round 2** – (2dc into next stitch) 6 times (12sts)
- **Round 3** – (1dc, 2dc into next stitch) 6 times (18sts)
- **Round 4** – (1dc, 2dc into next stitch, 1dc) 6 times (24sts)
- **Round 5** – (3dc, 2dc into next stitch) 6 times (30sts)
- **Round 6** – (2dc, 2dc into next stitch, 2dc) 6 times (36sts)
- **Round 7** – (5dc, 2dc into next stitch) 6 times (42sts)
- **Round 8** – (3dc, 2dc into next stitch, 3dc) 6 times (48sts)
- **Round 9** – (7dc, 2dc into next stitch) 6 times (54sts)
- **Round 10** – (4dc, 2dc into next stitch, 4dc) 6 times (60sts)
- **Rounds 11- 27** – dc in each stitch around (It can help to use a stitch marker and row counter) (60sts)
- DO NOT fasten off but move directly to making the handle

Bunny basket handle (make one)

- Continuing from the upper edge of the basket, using a 6mm crochet hook and white DMC Natura XL make a single turning chain (does not count as a stitch) and working on the inside edge of the basket, make 5dc into the front facing loops of the previous 5dc of the last round of the basket. Turn to work on the outside edge of the basket, make 5dc into the front facing loops opposite the stitches just made (10sts) These 10 stitches will now be worked in a continuous spiral to create a tube-like handle.
- **Rounds 1 - 35** – dc into each stitch around (10sts) (simply adjust the number of rounds to create a longer or shorter handle)
- The handle will naturally fold flat – finish your last round so the hook is at one edge. Work across the open end of the tube, ch1, ss into the front loop only of both stitches from each side at the same time to join (5sts)
- Fasten off leaving a long tail of yarn and using your tapestry needle stitch to the edge of the basket, directly opposite the other end of the handle – there should be a gap of 25 stitches along the front and back edges.

Bunny ears (make two)

- Starting at the tip of the ear, use an 8mm hook and white DMC Natura XL, to make a magic loop
- **Round 1** – Make a single turning chain (does not count as a stitch), 6dc (yarn under) into loop, pull tight (6sts)
Switch to 6mm hook and work all stitches as yarn over from this point
- **Round 2** – (1dc, 2dc into next stitch) 3 times (9sts)
- **Round 3** – ch2 (does not count as a stitch), (2tr, 2tr into next stitch) 3 times, ss into top ch2 to join (12sts)
- **Round 4** – ch2 (does not count as a stitch), (3tr, 2tr into next stitch) 3 times, ss into top ch2 to join (15sts)
- **Round 5** – ch2 (does not count as a stitch), (4tr, 2tr into next stitch) 3 times, ss into top ch2 to join (18sts)
- **Rounds 6 – 8** – ch2 (does not count as a stitch) 18tr, ss to top ch2 to join (18sts)
- **Round 9** – ch2 (does not count as a stitch), (4tr, tr2tog) 3 times, ss to top ch2 to join (15sts)
- **Round 10** – ch2 (does not count as a stitch), (3tr, tr2tog) 3 times, ss to top ch2 to join (12sts)
- **Round 11** – ch2 (does not count as a stitch), (2tr, tr2tog) 3 times, ss to top ch2 to join (9sts)
- Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing to the edge of the bunny basket.

Bunny cheeks (make two)

- Starting at the centre of the cheek, use an 8mm hook and white DMC Natura XL, to make a magic loop
- **Round 1** – Make a single turning chain (does not count as a stitch), 6dc (yarn under) into loop, pull tight (6sts)
Switch to 6mm hook and work all stitches as yarn over from this point
- **Round 2** – (2dc into next stitch) 6 times (12sts)
- **Round 3** – (1dc, 2dc into next stitch) 6 times (18sts)
- Fasten off and stitch tail of yarn into the back of cheek to secure

Bunny nose (make one)

- Starting at the centre of the nose, use a 3mm hook and a pale pink shade of DMC Natura Just Cotton, to make a magic loop
- **Round 1** – Make a single turning chain (does not count as a stitch), 6dc (yarn under) into loop, pull tight (6sts)
- **Round 2** – (2dc into next stitch) 6 times (12sts)
- **Round 3** – (dc, 2dc into next stitch) 6 times (18sts)
- **Round 4** – dc into each stitch around (18sts)
- **Round 5** – (4dc, dc2tog) 3 times (15dc)
- **Round 6** – (3dc, dc2tog) 3 times (12sts)
- Fasten off and stitch tail of yarn to secure before tucking excess inside the nose

Flowers (make as many as you like!)

- Starting at the centre of the flower, use a 3mm hook and any colour you like of DMC Natura Just Cotton, to make a magic loop
- **Round 1** – Make a single turning chain (does not count as a stitch), 6dc (yarn under) into loop, pull tight (6sts)
- **Round 2** – (dc, chain 2) 5 times, dc, chain 1, join second colour, chain 1 (creates 6 loops around)
- **Round 3** – Working in your second colour (dc, 2tr, dc) into each of the six 2ch loops around to create 6 petals
- Fasten off and stitch tails of yarn into the back of the flower to secure

Stitching your Easter Bunny Basket Together

Please refer to the photograph of the finished bunny basket as a guide

Bunny ears

Press the ear flat and using a tapestry needles and the tail of yarn at the base of the ear stitch the open edges together. Bring together the two outer edges of this base and stitch together to create a fold, simultaneously giving a curve to the upper part of the ear. Place the base of the ear on the edge of the basket, next to the front edge of the handle .Stitch the bottom of the ear to the basket and then stitch about half way up the back of the ear to the front facing edge of the handle to help the ear stand up. Repeat with the second ear.

Bunny cheeks

Using white sewing thread and needle stitch the bunny cheeks to the centre front of the basket so the inner edges are just touching and this point is in line with the middle of the handle.

Bunny nose

Using white sewing thread and needle stitch the bunny nose so it sits just above the cheeks. As you stitch around the edge push a little stuffing or some spare yarn inside the nose to help it stand out.

Eyes

Using sewing thread and needle stitch the buttons or beads just above the nose for eyes. If you plan to give the bunny basket to a very small child, substitute with circles of felt or embroidery stitches to create the eyes.

Flowers

Using white sewing thread and needle stitch as many flowers as you like around the base of the bunny ears and along the top edge of the basket.



Enjoy!!!
This basket is perfect filled with chocolate
from an Easter egg hunt.