

Smooching balls



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Who doesn't know it: you have a scrap of wool, but you can't do anything with it, because it's not enough for a figure, but you don't want to use this color or type of yarn anymore and so you don't buy the same wool to make something with it. Still too good to throw away. This does not only happen with a single yarn, but more often. If you have several of these scraps that you don't know how to use anymore, you can crochet either a Gustav or a Lefty. But you can also make little smooching balls out of them if you need something small, but still groovy. I not only have a lot of wool scraps, but I also bought a giant pack of comic eyes at some point. I thought it was a good idea, but I don't really like them at all on Amigurumis. However, they can be used quite well for figures made of wool scraps - and even for smooching balls.

Smooching balls are so easy to crochet that it wasn't really worth writing a complete pdf pattern for them, because they actually consist entirely of spheres (even if it doesn't always have to be a sphere). Nevertheless, I was asked about it, so that I have now written a pattern for it after all. The "balls" can be slightly varied. You don't have to pay attention to the color changes either, I just crochet until the thread is finished or I change the color randomly in between (even in the middle of the round), without tricks for a smooth transition. With scraps men, I always like it when you can clearly see the transition.

So let's start :)

Materials:

- Scraps of wool
- Crochet hook in suitable size
- Stuffing
- Eyes in suitable size (you can also crochet or embroider the eyes)

Abbreviations (US Terms):

MR = magic ring

inc = increase

sc = single crochet

dec = decrease

ch = chain

BLO = back loop only

slst = slip stitch

FLO = front loop only

st = stitch

(-) x = repeat inside of () for x nr of times

To crochet a smooching ball, proceed as follows:

- sc 6 in MR (6)
- inc x6 (12)
- (sc 1, inc) x6 (18)
- (sc 2, inc) x6 (24)
- (sc 3, inc) x6 (30)
- (sc 4, inc) x6 (36)
- (sc 5, inc) x6 (42)
- (sc 6, inc) x6 (48)



Now comes the part where the smooching ball can easily change shape (more like a ball or elongated or flat) - just crochet one of the versions or even more or less rounds - as you like:

- (8 Rounds) sc in each st around (48) - *crochet 8 rounds and you'll get a real round smooching ball*
- (4 Rounds) sc in each st around (48) - *crochet 4 rounds and you'll get a more flat smooching ball*
- (16 Rounds) sc in each st around (48) - *crochet 16 rounds and you'll get a rather longish smooching ball*

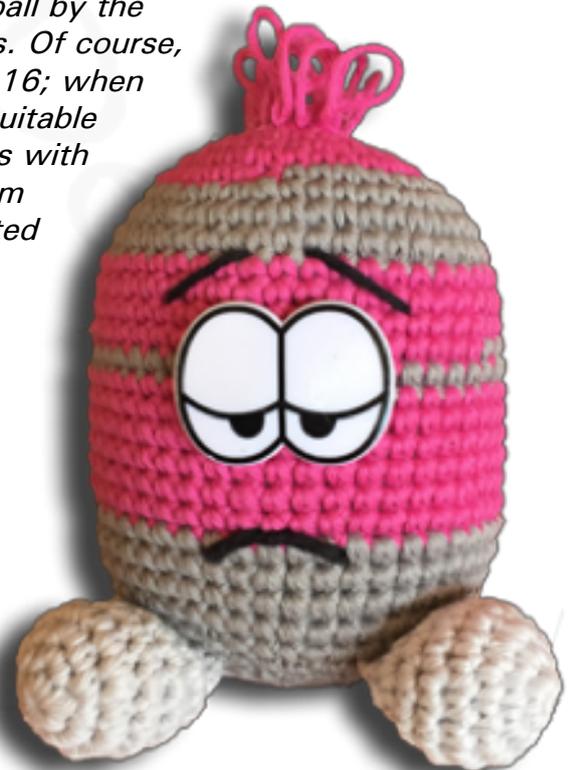
So you can easily control the shape of the smooching ball by the number of rounds between the increases and decreases. Of course, any number of rounds is possible here, not just 4, 8 or 16; when using safety eyes, the eyes can now be attached in a suitable place. Of course you can also make more or less rounds with increases or between the rounds with the increases from time to time one round without, then it gets more pointed upwards.

- (sc 6, dec) x6 (42)
- (sc 5, dec) x6 (36)
- (sc 4, dec) x6 (30)
- (sc 3, dec) x6 (24)
- (sc 2, dec) x6 (18)
- (sc 1, dec) x6 (12)

Stuff and shape the ball.

- dec x6 (6)

Fasten off invisibly.



Now a pair of feet, also the feet basically are made of a kind of ball. Of course you need two of them :o)

- sc 6 in MR (6)
- inc x6 (12)
- (sc 1, inc) x6 (18)
- (3 Rounds) sc in each st around (18)
- (sc 1, dec) x6 (12)

Don't cut the yarn yet, fold the foot flat, close the top with a row of sc, crocheting through both stitches.

Fasten off, leave a long tail for sewing.

Pin the feet to an appropriate place and sew them on. If not already done, attach the eyes, embroider face and latch hook hair if necessary.

For another variation, you can also crochet some funny antennae, these are also very simple.

- sc 6 in MR (6)
- inc x6 (12)
- (2 Rounds) sc in each st around (12)
- dec x6 (6)
- (4 Rounds) sc in each st around (6)

Fasten off, leave a long tail for sewing.

Sew the antennae on the head.

That's it, the smooching ball is done.

These balls are an excellent (last-minute) gift. Something like that - and I'm talking from my experience - is a pleasure for young and old, no matter if male or female :o)

So have fun crocheting!

