Chenille Yarn Amigurumi

Guide + bear head pattern · mardingezituru.com

Chenille yarn (also sold as blanket yarn or velvet yarn) makes the softest amigurumi there is: big, squishy and quick. It is also the most frustrating yarn to learn on, because the stitches hide in the fluff and the yarn sheds and stretches. These tips fix most of the problems, and a small bear head squish at the end lets you practice.



The chenille bear head squish and two balls of chenille.

What chenille yarn is

- A thick yarn with a soft pile around a thin core, usually polyester. Most toy chenille is **bulky (5) or super bulky (6)** .
- It works up about 2 to 2.5 times bigger than DK cotton: a 3.5 in / 9 cm cotton toy becomes about 7 to 8 in / 18 to 20 cm.
- Our best yarn for amigurumi guide compares it with cotton and acrylic.

8 tips for chenille amigurumi

1. **Use a small hook for the yarn:** 4.5 to 5 mm for most bulky chenille. Tight stitches stop the stuffing from showing.
2. **Marker in every round:** you will not see the start of the round otherwise. Use several markers and move them up.
3. **Count by feel:** pinch the top of the round; each stitch is a small bump. Count twice before moving on.
4. **Do not frog more than once:** pulled-out chenille loses its pile and gets thin, and worms (loops pop out).
5. **Keep tension even and loose-ish:** pulling hard stretches the core and makes "worms" later.
6. **Magic ring: tie a knot:** chenille is slippery and the ring opens. Knot the tail after closing it.
7. **Bigger eyes:** 12 to 15 mm safety eyes; smaller ones sink into the pile.
8. **Sew with a thinner yarn** in the same color, or split the chenille: full chenille is too thick for a neat seam.



Markers in every round: the only way to keep count.

Practice pattern: chenille bear head squish

A round bear head without a body: about 4.75 in / 12 cm wide. Chenille (blanket yarn / 6): caramel (A) about 44 yd / 40 m, cream (B) about 3 yd / 3 m, a little dark brown (C); a 5 mm (US H/8) hook, two 12 mm safety eyes, fiberfill. Gauge: 3 sc x 3.25 rounds = 1 in / 2.5 cm.

Abbreviations (US terms)

- **MR** magic ring · **sc** single crochet · **inc** 2 sc in one stitch · **dec** invisible decrease · **FO** fasten off
- **blo / flo** back loop only / front loop only · **ch** chain · **sl st** slip stitch · **hdc / dc** half double / double crochet

Head

Color: start with A (caramel).

Start at the top.

- [ ] **Rnd 1:** 6 sc in a magic ring. (6)
- [ ] **Rnd 2:** Inc ×6. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 3:** (sc, inc) ×6. (18)
- [ ] **Rnd 4:** Sc, inc, (2 sc, inc) ×5, sc. (24)
- [ ] **Rnd 5:** (3 sc, inc) ×6. (30)
- [ ] **Rnd 6:** 2 sc, inc, (4 sc, inc) ×5, 2 sc. (36)
- [ ] **Rnds 7–12:** Sc around. (36)
- [ ] **Rnd 13:** (4 sc, dec) ×6. (30)
- [ ] **Rnd 14:** Sc, dec, (3 sc, dec) ×5, 2 sc. (24)
- [ ] **Rnd 15:** (2 sc, dec) ×6. (18)
- [ ] **Rnd 16:** (sc, dec) ×6. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 17:** Dec ×6. (6)

Placement: Eyes: 12 mm safety eyes between R9 and R10, 6 sts apart.

Placement: Muzzle: below the eyes, top edge on R10.

Placement: Ears: at the top sides on R3-R5.

Finish: Stuff firmly, FO and close.

Muzzle

Color: start with B (cream).

An oval around a chain of 5.

- [ ] **Rnd 1:** Sc around. (8)
- [ ] **Rnd 2:** Inc, 2 sc, inc ×2, 2 sc, inc. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 3:** Sc around. (12)

Placement: Nose in C: satin-stitch oval on R1, a short line down and a small smile.

Finish: Ch 5, 8 sc around the chain (an oval); stuff lightly and sew on.

Ear (make 2)

Color: start with A (caramel).

Make two.

- [ ] **Rnd 1:** 6 sc in a magic ring. (6)
- [ ] **Rnd 2:** Inc ×6. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 3:** Sc around. (12)

Finish: FO, fold in half and sew on by the open edge.

Assembly

1. Embroider the nose and smile on the muzzle with dark brown yarn, stuff it lightly and sew it below the eyes.
2. Fold the ears and sew them at the top sides on rounds 3 to 5.

FAQ

Why does my chenille have loops sticking out?

That is "worming": the pile slides along the core. Loosen your tension, avoid frogging, and use a hook that is not too small.

Bigger chenille projects: the big cat plush, the cow plush and the plush animals list.