Highland Cow

Free amigurumi pattern · 3.5 in / 9 cm · mardingeziturucom

The Highland cow is all about the fringe: a shaggy rust-colored mop that falls over the eyes, two long curved horns and a soft cream muzzle peeking out underneath. Under the hair it is a simple sitting toy, and the fringe is knotted on at the end with a crochet hook, the same way you would add a tassel.

It is about 3.5 in / 9 cm tall sitting, plus the horns. Every round has its stitch count, and the full pattern is in a printable PDF.



The Highland cow: shaggy fringe, long horns.

Pattern at a glance

- **Skill level:** easy (MR, sc, inc, invisible dec, an oval start, knotting fringe)
- **Finished size:** about 3.5 in / 9 cm tall sitting
- **Yarn:** DK cotton, about 71 yd / 65 m in total
- **Hook:** 2.5 mm (US B/1–C/2)
- **Time:** about 4 hours with the fringe

Materials

- DK cotton in rust brown (A) for the head, body, limbs and fringe, about 57 yd / 52 m
- DK cotton in cream (B) for the muzzle and horns, about 10 yd / 9 m
- DK cotton in dark brown (C) for the hooves and nostrils, about 5 yd / 4 m
- 6 mm safety eyes (they are mostly hidden by the fringe)
- 2.5 mm hook, stitch marker, tapestry needle, fiberfill
- A pet slicker brush or a stiff comb if you want a fluffy fringe

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

Before you start

- Cotton gives a neat, stringy fringe. For a fluffy fringe, brush the strands out with a pet slicker brush; the cotton splits into soft fibers.
- The horns are 7 rounds of 6 stitches. Stuff them lightly and bend them before sewing so they curve up.
- The muzzle is an oval started on a chain of 6 (12 stitches in the first round).



The pieces and the cut fringe lengths before assembly.

The pattern

Head

Color: start with A (rust brown).

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

Placement: Eyes: 6 mm safety eyes between R10 and R11, 9 sts apart (insert before R15), mostly hidden by the fringe.

Placement: Muzzle centered below the eyes, its top edge on R11.

Finish: Stuff firmly after R17, FO and close the hole.

Muzzle

Color: start with B (cream).

An oval cup, started on a chain.

- [ ] **Rnd 1:** Sc around. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 2:** (sc, inc) ×6. (18)
- [ ] **Rnd 3:** (2 sc, inc) ×6. (24)
- [ ] **Rnds 4–5:** Sc around. (24)

Placement: Nostrils in C: two small straight stitches over R2, 6 sts apart.

Finish: Ch 6; in the 2nd ch from the hook work 1 sc, sc in the next 3 ch, 3 sc in the last ch, then along the other side sc in the next 3 ch and 2 sc in the last ch (12 sts, an oval); stuff lightly and sew on.

Horn (make 2)

Color: start with B (cream).

Long and thin: seven rounds of six stitches.

- [ ] **Rnd 1:** 4 sc in MR. (4)
- [ ] **Rnd 2:** (sc, inc) ×2. (6)
- [ ] **Rnds 3–7:** Sc around. (6)

Finish: Stuff lightly, bend into a curve and sew on at the upper sides of the head on R5, pointing out and up.

Horn: every round



The horn: 4 stitches, then 6 for six rounds.

Ear (make 2)

Color: start with A (rust brown).

- ☐ **Rnd 1:** 6 sc in a magic ring. (6)
- ☐ **Rnd 2:** (sc, inc) ×3. (9)
- ☐ **Rnds 3–4:** Sc around. (9)

Finish: Flatten and sew on just under the horns, pointing out.

Body

Color: start with A (rust brown).

- ☐ **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)
- ☐ **Rnds 6–9:** Sc around. (30)
- ☐ **Rnd 10:** (3 sc, dec) ×6. (24)
- ☐ **Rnds 11–13:** Sc around. (24)
- ☐ **Rnd 14:** Sc, dec, (2 sc, dec) ×5, sc. (18)
- ☐ **Rnds 15–16:** Sc around. (18)

Finish: FO with a long tail, stuff firmly, sew the open end under the head.

Arm (make 2)

Color: start with C (dark brown).

Dark brown hoof first, then rust.

- ☐ **Rnd 1:** 6 sc in a magic ring. (6)
- ☐ **Rnd 2:** (2 sc, inc) ×2. (8)
- ☐ **Rnd 3:** Switch to A (rust brown). Sc around. (8)
- ☐ **Rnds 4–9:** Sc around. (8)

Finish: Stuff only the paw, flatten the top and sew on at the sides of the body just below the head.

Leg (make 2)

Color: start with C (dark brown).

Round 3 in back loops makes the top of the hoof.

- [ ] **Rnd 1:** 6 sc in a magic ring. (6)
- [ ] **Rnd 2:** Inc ×6. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 3:** BLO sc around. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 4:** Switch to A (rust brown). Sc around. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 5:** Sc around. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 6:** (2 sc, dec) ×3. (9)
- [ ] **Rnd 7:** Sc around. (9)

Finish: Stuff, FO and sew on at the bottom front of the body so the toy sits.

Fringe and tail

Cut about 40 lengths of rust brown, 3 in / 8 cm each. Fold each one in half, pull the fold through a stitch with your hook, pass the ends through the loop and tighten. Fill the forehead between the horns from round 4 to round 10, then add a few on top of the head. Brush and trim so the fringe just covers the eyes. Knot 6 lengths at the back of the body for the tail.

Assembly

1. Sew the muzzle to the lower face, top edge on round 11, stuffing it a little.
2. Sew the horns at the upper sides of the head on round 5, pointing out and up, and the ears just under them.
3. Sew the body under the head, arms just below the head, legs at the bottom front so it sits.
4. Knot on the fringe and tail last.

FAQ

Can I use fluffy yarn for the fringe?

Yes. A mohair blend or brushed acrylic gives an instantly fluffy fringe without brushing. Keep the body in cotton so the stitches stay neat.

The horns droop.

Stuff them a little more firmly, or slide a short piece of pipe cleaner inside before sewing (leave it out for small children).

The plain version: our black and white crochet cow. More animals: the pony and the puppy.