How to Add Details to Amigurumi

Guide + practice head pattern · mardingezituru.com

Small details are what give an amigurumi its personality. The same plain head can look sleepy, shy or cheeky depending on where the eyes sit and what you add around them. This guide covers the details people ask about most: cheeks, eyebrows, noses, mouths and eye highlights, with placement in rounds and stitches so you can repeat them.

At the end there is a small practice head pattern (1.9 in / 4.9 cm wide) to try them on before you add them to a finished toy.



One head, three faces: crochet cheeks, embroidered brows, an embroidered nose.

Plan the face before you close the head

• **Pin first, sew later.** Mark the eye positions with pins or stitch markers and look at the head from a little distance. Moving a pin is easy, removing a safety eye is not.
• **Eyes a little below the middle look young and cute.** On a 36-stitch head with 18 rounds, rounds 10 and 11 are just below the middle.
• **Spacing changes the expression.** Five to six stitches apart looks alert, seven to eight looks soft and sweet, more than nine looks sleepy.
• Put the safety eyes in before the head is closed: our safety eye guide covers sizes and the washer.

Cheeks

• **Crochet cheeks:** 6 sc in a magic ring, then 12 sc (pattern below), sewn flat just below and outside each eye. They give a raised, 3D look and stay put.
• **Embroidered cheeks:** three to four short straight stitches side by side in pink, over one round. Quick and flat, best for small toys.
• **Blush:** a little powder blush or pastel chalk dabbed on with a cotton bud. It looks soft but fades when washed, so skip it on toys for small children.

Eyebrows

On a small head one straight stitch over two rounds, about one round above the eye, is enough. On a bigger head, work a short curved line of backstitch instead. Slant the stitch down toward the middle for a cross face, up toward the middle for a worried face, and keep it level for a calm face. Use a darker shade of the main color or dark brown rather than black, which looks harsh.

Noses

- **Embroidered triangle:** satin stitch a small triangle between the eyes, one round lower than the eyes, point down. Start with the top line and fill toward the point.
- **Crocheted button nose:** a tiny stuffed piece of 9 stitches (pattern below) for bears, dogs and pigs.
- **Safety nose:** plastic triangle noses go in like safety eyes, before the head is closed.

Mouths and eye highlights

- **Smile:** two straight stitches in a shallow V, one or two rounds below the nose. For a wider smile, three stitches in a curve.
- **Eye highlight:** one tiny white stitch at the top of each safety eye, on the same side for both eyes. It makes the eyes look shiny.
- **Embroidered eyes:** for babies and toddlers, embroider the eyes in satin stitch instead of using safety eyes.



Embroidering the brows, cheeks pinned in place.

Hiding the yarn ends

1. Bring the needle in through the back of the head, where the hair or a hat will cover it, and out where the detail starts.
2. Make the stitch, then go back in and out again at the back of the head.
3. Pull gently so the face shapes a little, tie the two ends together and push the knot inside with the needle.

Practice head pattern

DK cotton with a 2.5 mm (US B/1–C/2) hook: cream (A), a little dark brown (B), pink (C) and light brown (D), about 28 yd / 25 m in total. You also need two 8 mm safety eyes, some fiberfill and a tapestry needle.

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 (cream).

- [ ] **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:** 2 sc, dec, (3 sc, dec) ×5, sc. (24)
- [ ] **Rnd 16:** (2 sc, dec) ×6. (18)
- [ ] **Rnd 17:** Sc, dec, (sc, dec) ×5. (12)
- [ ] **Rnd 18:** Dec ×6. (6)

Placement: Eyes: 8 mm safety eyes between R10 and R11, 7 sts apart (insert before R15).

Placement: Nose: centered between the eyes, on R11-R12.

Placement: Cheeks: just below and outside the eyes, on R12-R13.

Placement: Brows in B: one straight stitch over R7-R8 above each eye.

Finish: Stuff firmly after R17, FO and close.

Cheek (make 2)

Color: start with C (pink).

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

Finish: Sl st to the first sc, FO with a long tail, sew flat.

Nose

Color: start with D (light brown).

- [ ] **Rnd 1:** 6 sc in a magic ring. (6)
- [ ] **Rnd 2:** (sc, inc) ×3. (9)
- [ ] **Rnd 3:** Sc around. (9)

Finish: FO with a long tail, stuff with a pinch of fiberfill, sew on.

FAQ

Should I add details before or after stuffing?

Safety eyes and safety noses go in before stuffing. Cheeks, brows and mouths are easier after stuffing, because the head has its final shape and you can see the face properly.

How do I stop embroidered details from sinking in?

Stuff firmly and do not pull the yarn tight. A gentle pull is enough to keep the stitch flat on the surface.

Put it into practice on the teddy bear or the doll, or start with amigurumi for beginners.