How to Embroider Eyes on Amigurumi

Guide + practice pattern · mardingezituru.com

Embroidered eyes are the safe choice for toys for babies and toddlers, and they give a softer, hand-made look than plastic safety eyes. All you need is black yarn or embroidery floss and a blunt needle. The trick is to plan the position first and to keep the stitches flat and even.

This guide covers four eye styles, step by step, with a small egg-shaped practice toy at the end so you can try them before you stitch a face on a finished toy.



Three embroidered eye styles on the practice egg.

What you need

- **Thread:** black DK cotton split into 2 plies, or 3 to 6 strands of black embroidery floss. Thinner thread gives neater edges on small toys.
- **Needle:** a blunt tapestry needle long enough to go through the whole head.
- **Markers:** two pins or stitch markers to mark the eye positions.
- **A little white** for highlights and **pink** for cheeks.

Step 1: plan the position

- Stuff the head first. Embroidered eyes go on after stuffing, unlike safety eyes.
- Mark the eyes with pins a little below the middle of the head. On our practice egg that is rounds 9 and 10, 6 stitches apart.
- Look from a little distance and move the pins until you like the face. Wider apart looks sweeter, closer together looks more alert.

Step 2: start without a knot showing

1. Leave a 4 in / 10 cm tail and push the needle in at the bottom of the head, where a seam or the base will hide it.
2. Bring it out at the first eye position.
3. At the end, go back out at the same hidden spot, tie the two tails together and push the knot inside.

Four eye styles

1. Oval satin-stitch eyes

Work straight stitches side by side over one round, top to bottom, until the oval is 2 to 3 stitches wide. Keep the stitches next to each other, not overlapping, and do not pull them tight. Add one tiny white stitch at the top for a highlight, on the same side on both eyes.

2. Sleepy closed eyes

Make a U shape: come out at one end, go in 2 stitches across, come out one round lower in the middle and catch the thread to pull it into a curve, then go back in. One or two tiny stitches along the curve hold the shape.

3. French-knot dot eyes

Come out at the eye position, wrap the thread twice around the needle, put the needle back in right next to where it came out and pull slowly. Three wraps make a bigger dot. Best for very small toys.

4. Straight-line eyes

One straight stitch over 2 stitches, worked twice in the same holes so it stands out. Slant them slightly down toward the middle for a happy, squinty face.



Satin stitch: parallel stitches side by side.

Common problems

- **The eyes sink in:** the thread is pulled too tight, or the head is not stuffed firmly enough.
- **One eye bigger than the other:** count the stitches you cover and use the same number for both eyes.
- **Black thread shows through light yarn:** carry the thread inside the head from one eye to the other, not across the surface.

Practice pattern: little egg buddy

A 2.5 in / 6 cm egg that stands on its flat base. DK cotton with a 2.5 mm (US B/1–C/2) hook: cream (A), with a little black (B), white (C) and pink (D) for the face, about 21 yd / 19 m in total, plus some fiberfill.

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

Egg

Color: start with A (cream).

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)
- [ ] **Rnds 5–7:** Sc around. (24)
- [ ] **Rnd 8:** (3 sc, inc) ×6. (30)
- [ ] **Rnds 9–14:** Sc around. (30)
- [ ] **Rnd 15:** BLO (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 in B: centered on R9-R10, 6 sts apart (embroider after stuffing).

Placement: Cheeks in D: two straight stitches each, on R11, just outside the eyes.

Finish: Stuff firmly after R17, FO and close; R15 in back loops gives a flat base so the egg stands.

FAQ

Are embroidered eyes safe for babies?

They are the safest option because there is nothing to pull off. Secure the thread ends well inside the head and check the toy regularly.

Yarn or embroidery floss?

Floss gives sharper, smaller eyes; split yarn matches the texture of the toy better. Both work.

More on faces: how to add details to amigurumi and our safety eye guide.