

Octopus for Premies

MATERIALS

- DK (3, Light) Yarn
- 3.0 mm (11 UK) Crochet Hook
- Tapestry Needle
- Cotton Stuffing for Amigurumi

YARN & YARDAGE

I used 138-161 yds (126-147 m, 60-70 g) of **Hobbii Rainbow Cotton 8/6** (50 g, 115 yds / 105 m) in color Apricot (65).

ABBREVIATIONS (US)

- **BLO** – Back Loop Only
- **Ch** – Chain
- **FLO** – Front Loop Only
- **Inc** – Increase
- **Inv Dec** – Invisible Decrease
- **MC** – Magic Circle
- **Sc** – Single Crochet
- **Sl St** – Slip Stitch
- **St** – Stitch
- **Yo** – Yarn Over

SPECIAL STITCHES

Back Loop Only (BLO) & Front Loop Only (FLO)
Learn how to crochet in the BLO and FLO on page 5.

Increase (Inc)
One increase consists of 2 sts worked in the same indicated st.

Invisible Decrease (Inv Dec) Tutorial on page 7.

Magic Circle (MC) Tutorial on page 6.

GAUGE SIZE

7 rounds in sc in 2" 8" (20 cm) including the tentacles.
(5 cm).

PATTERN NOTES

- If the pattern says “**sc 2**”, you need to sc 1 in each of the next 2 sts.
- (...) – Repeat the instructions within parenthesis for the indicated number of times.
- *... – Repeat the instructions from * for the indicated number of times.
- [...] – Crochet the instructions within brackets all in the same indicated stitch.



IMPORTANT INFO

Before you start crocheting your octopus for premature babies, it is extremely important that you check the quality standard required by the specific NICU you're donating to or by the organization that manages the project.

But if you cannot find any specific guidelines, here are a few basic rules to keep in mind:

- **YARN** – Only use 100% cotton.

The octopus will have to withstand several cycles of washes at high temperatures (90°C / 194°F). So, use approved cotton yarns (*use this [very useful list HERE](#) compiled by [Octopus for a Premie New Zealand](#) where they go into detail on the different brands and even colors!*) For the same reason (high-temp washings), weave in all your ends securely, and avoid eyes of any kind, even the embroidered ones because they might always come loose after many cycles in the washing machine.

- **SIZE** – The head should be between 3"-3.5" (8-9 cm) long and at least 6" (15 cm) in circumference. The tentacles should be somewhere between 4.7" and 7" (12-18 cm) in length but possibly not longer than 8" (20 cm) when fully extended.
- **STUFFING** – Only use new, clean stuffing that can be washed at high temperatures.
- **TENSION** – Crochet tightly so that no stuffing will come through the stitches.

Octopus for Preemies

PATTERN

Crochet in the round in a continuous spiral.

With **A**, make a MC.

Round 1. Sc 6 in MC. (6 sts)

Round 2. Sc inc 6. (12 sts)

Round 3. (Sc inc 1, sc 1) **6** times. (18 sts)

Round 4. Sc 1, (sc inc 1, sc 2) **5** times, sc inc 1, sc 1. (24 sts)

Round 5. (Sc inc 1, sc 3) **6** times. (30 sts)

Round 6. Sc 2, (sc inc 1, sc 4) **5** times, sc inc 1, sc 2. (36 sts)

Round 7. (Sc inc 1, sc 5) **6** times. (42 sts)

Round 8. Sc 3, (sc inc 1, sc 6) **5** times, sc inc 1, sc 3. (48 sts)

Round 9. (Sc inc 1, sc 7) **6** times. (54 sts)

Rounds 10-19 (10 rounds). Sc around. (54 sts)

Round 20. (Inv dec 1, sc 7) **6** times. (48 sts)

Round 21-22 (2 rounds). Sc around. (48 sts)

Round 23. Sc 3, (inv dec 1, sc 6) **5** times, inv dec 1, sc 3. (42 sts)

Rounds 24-25 (2 rounds). Sc around. (42 sts)

Round 26. (Inv dec 1, sc 5) **6** times. (36 sts)

Round 27. Sc around. (36 sts)

Round 28. Sc 2, (inv dec 1, sc 4) **5** times, inv dec 1, sc 2. (30 sts)

Round 29. (Inv dec 1, sc 3) **6** times. (24 sts)

Do not fasten off and move on to the tentacles.



Tentacles

Round 30. *FLO sl st 1, ch 65. [Sc 3] in second ch from hook and in each remaining ch. Working on the sts from round 29, FLO sl st 2. Repeat from * **8** times. (8 tentacles, photo 1)

Do not fasten off and move on to the bottom.



Notice how the tentacles look pretty messy in this picture. That's because I did not roll them so that all the curls went in a clockwise direction. However, when I was done crocheting the octopus, I did roll all the tentacles clockwise to give the octopus a tidier look.

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Bottom

Turn your octopus in the same direction of work as for rounds 1-29 (*photo 2*).

Work next round in BLO of round 29 (one example is indicated by the white arrow in photo 2).

Round 31. BLO sc 1, (BLO inv dec 1, BLO sc 2) 5 times, BLO inv dec 1, BLO sc 1. (18 sts, *photo 3*)

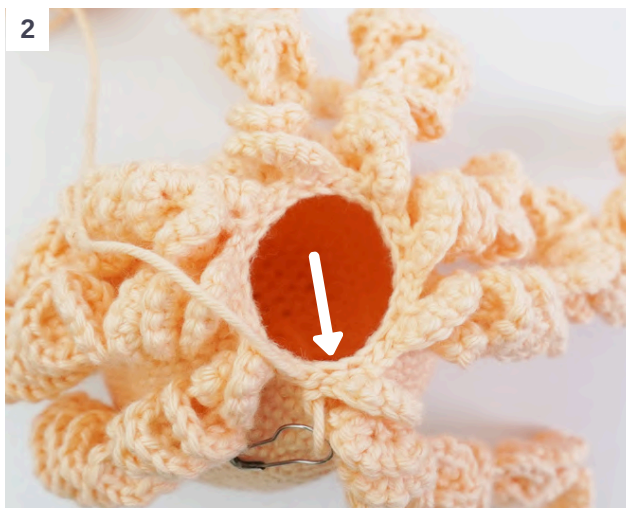
Stuff the head of your octopus.

Work the next rounds normally into both loops of sts.

Round 32. (Inv dec 1, sc 1) 6 times. (12 sts)

Round 33. Inv dec 6. (6 sts)

Fasten off leaving a long tail. Sew the last 6 sts closed and weave in your ends.



Octopus for Premies

WELL DONE

Your **octopus** is ready!

Share a picture of your finished work on Facebook and/or Instagram and tag me **@raffamusa_designs**

If you are sharing on Instagram, you can also use the hashtag **#raffamusadesigns**

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- Find **HERE** a list of associations and groups that coordinate the collection and donation of crocheted octopuses in different countries all over the world:

<http://mynomadhome.com/the-octopus-for-a-preemie-project-a-list-of-countries-and-their-websites/>

FIND MORE BABY TOYS AND AMIGURUMI TO CROCHET ON RAFFAMUSADESIGNS.COM



Butterfly or Bee Baby Rattle



Weather Sensory Cube



Unicorn Baby Lovey

How To...

CROCHET IN THE BACK LOOP ONLY (BLO) AND FRONT LOOP ONLY (FLO)

Regular crochet stitches are normally worked into both loops of the indicated stitch.

However, a pattern can call for **back loop only (BLO)** sts or **front loop only (FLO)** sts.

Thus, it is really important to be able to identify the back and front loops of crochet stitches!

- If the pattern calls for a **BLO st**, then you'll have to make your stitch only into the loop that is the furthest from you.
- In a similar way, if the pattern calls for a **FLO st**, you need to make the st in the loop that is the closest to you.

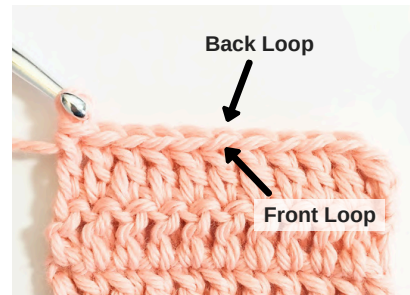
Important Note

Back and front loops are *dynamic* definitions. So, what used to be the back loop on one side will become the front loop when you turn your work for the next row!

In the example shown here on the side, we'll see how to work a st in the BLO:

Step 1. Identify the back loop of the st.

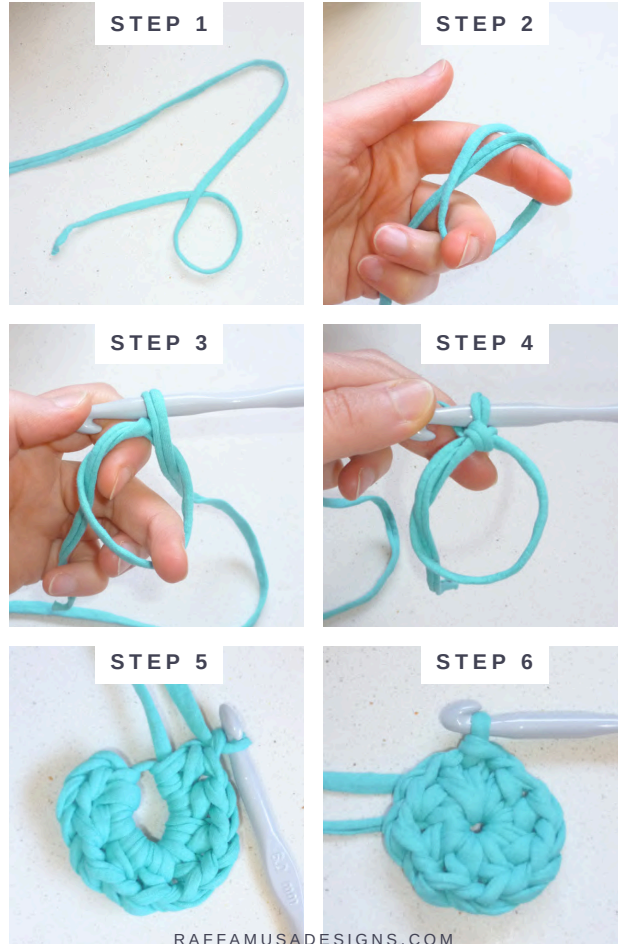
Step 2. (Yo if necessary) Insert your hook into the BLO and complete the st as normal.



How To...

MAGIC CIRCLE

- **Step 1-2.** With your left hand (assuming you are right-handed), hold the loose end of your yarn with your pinky and ring finger. Make the yarn pass in between your thumb and index finger, and then make a loop around your index and middle finger. Bring the yarn toward the outside, like shown in the picture.
- **Step 3.** Starting from the situation pictured in panel 2, insert your crochet hook in the loop, just above your index finger. Reach for the yarn you positioned toward the outside and pull up a loop. This loop will be pretty loose and unstable.
- **Step 4.** Secure your yarn by chaining 1 or the number of chains indicated in the pattern.
- **Step 5.** Crochet your stitches into the ring as indicated in the pattern.
- **Step 6.** Close the MC by pulling the loose end. When you do this, your stitches will come close together and you can slip stitch into the top of the very first stitch you made.



How To...

INVISIBLE DECREASE

- **Step 1.** The invisible decrease (inv dec) is worked over the front loops only (FLO) of the next two stitches (see arrows in Step 1 photo).
- **Step 2.** Insert your hook into the FLO of the first stitch (2 loops on your hook).
- **Steps 3-4.** Twist your hook downwards and insert it into the FLO of the next stitch (3 loops on your hook).
- **Step 5.** Yarn over.
- **Step 6.** Pull the yarn through all 3 loops on your hook to complete the inv dec!

