

Crochet Pencil Cup

This project is to crochet a simple pencil cup. Once the crochet is complete, the final step is to starch the project, which allows it to hold its shape and lets you use it for non-liquids without it collapsing in on itself. Find a cup in your house that's roughly the shape you want your finished project to be. We will use this as a guide for when to stop increasing our stitches, and also use it as a form for when you starch your work. Your crocheted cup will be slightly wider, so keep that in mind when choosing. For those new to crocheting, here is a link to the magic circle, and how to single crochet.

Round 1: Start with a magic circle, chain 1, single crochet six times in the loop, pull the tail to draw the stitches together. [6 st]

Round 2: 2 single crochet in each stitch from the previous round. [12 st]

Round 3: *2 single crochet in the next stitch, one single crochet in the next stitch* and repeat from * to * around. [18 st]

Round 4: *2 single crochet in next stitch, single crochet in each of next two stitches*, repeat from * to * around [24 st]

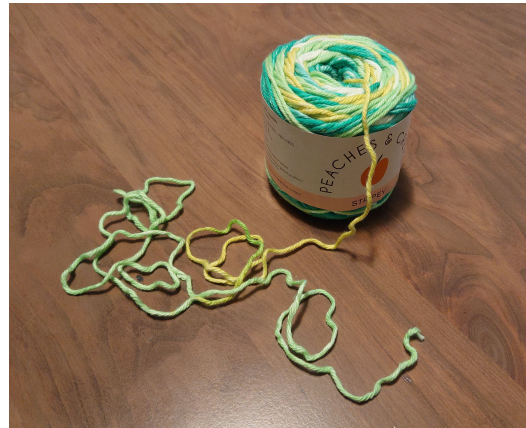
Round 5: *2 single crochet in next stitch, single crochet in each of next three stitches*, repeat from * to * around [30 st]

Round 6 - ?: Continue in this pattern, distributing the six increases over the round. For the purposes of this project, each round will be *2 single crochet in next stitch, single croche in each of next (round number minus 2) stitches*, repeat from * to * around [6·(round number) st]

Once the diameter of your circle is just slightly smaller than the diameter of the bottom of your cup, switch to normal single crochet with no increases. Continue to single crochet once in every stitch until the cup is as tall as you want. Bind off and tuck in the tails.

Detailed Instructions

More specific instructions: Here are your provided materials. In addition to this, you will also need a cup that can get wet that you'll use for shaping, as well as 1 tablespoon cornstarch. These balls of yarn can also be used by pulling the yarn from the center. This is up to you, but it can be nice to take the yarn from the center so you don't have the ball rolling around the floor on you.



Round 1: Start with a magic circle, chain 1, single crochet six times in the loop, pull the tail to draw the stitches together. These pictures are showing what happens before and after you draw the magic circle closed. At the end of the round you should have 6 stitches.



Round 2: Single crochet twice in each stitch from the previous round. By the end of this round you should have 12 stitches around your circle.



Round 3: Single crochet twice in the first stitch, and then single crochet once in the second stitch. Continue this increase pattern (3 stitches in the current row over 2 from the last row). By the end of this row you should have 18 stitches around.



Round 4: Now increase 4 stitches over the next 3. Single crochet twice in the first stitch, and then one single crochet each in the next two stitches. Repeat this pattern around. At the end of this row you should have 24 stitches around.



Rounds 5+: Continue with the next rounds in the same manner as rounds 2-4. For each round you should increase n stitches over $n - 1$ stitches from the previous round, where n is the current round number. It's at this point that you should gauge whether you think the project will be wide enough to form your cylinder. It's a good idea here to compare your current circle with the bottom diameter of the cup you've chosen. In the pictures below you can see round 5 complete, and then a comparison of the bottom of my cup with five versus six rounds in the bottom circle. I decided to go with six for mine, but all crocheters are different, though, so be your own judge here.



Now we start the vertical section of the cup. From this point forward, single crochet once in each stitch. You can put your project back on the cup at any point if you want to check your current height against the reference cup. I liked to check at the end of each color block, but it isn't necessary at all.

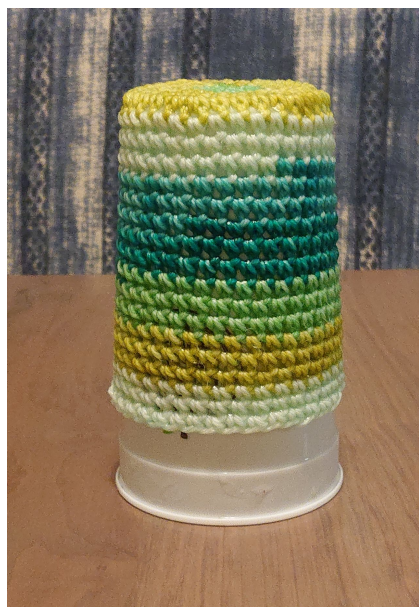


Once you decide your cup is as tall as you'd like, slip stitch in the next stitch, then break the yarn and draw the tail through, pulling it tight. Weave in the end to secure it. Here's what my finished cup looked like before

starching.



Now at this point to have a more rigid surface, you'll want to starch the project. Once it's starched, pull it back over your cup to act as a form. You can move and wiggle it around on the cup until it's the shape you like. Then set it in a place and let it dry. Once it's dry you can remove it from your form (which may take some gentle wiggling).



You're done! Enjoy your new pencil cup.

