

Adorable Dandy-Lion Amigurumi Tutorial



The Lion



The lion, often called the "king of the jungle," is a powerful and majestic big cat known for its golden mane and thunderous roar. Native to parts of Africa and India, lions live in social groups called prides, which is rare among wild cats. They are skilled hunters and symbols of strength, courage, and royalty across many cultures.

Size: 8 inches tall x 6 inches wide

Materials:

- Caron One Pound worsted (100% acrylic; 812 yards (742 m) / 454 g) in Yellow
- Caron One Pound in Grass Green
- Caron One Pound in Rose (just a small amount for the nose)
- Caron One Pound in Black (just a small amount for whiskers)
- US 7 (4.5 mm) crochet hook
- 14 mm black safety eyes
- Polyester fiberfill
- Tapestry needle
- Stitch markers
- Scissors

Stitches Used:

- Magic ring
- Single crochet (sc)
- Increase (inc)
- Invisible decrease (dec)

- Lark's head knot

Head and Body

Make 1

Make a magic ring in Yellow.

Round 1: Sc 6 in magic ring. [6 sts]

Round 2: Inc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3: *Sc in the next st, inc in the next st; rep from * 5 more times. [18 sts]

Round 4: *Sc in the next 2 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 5 more times. [24 sts]

Round 5: *Sc in the next 3 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 5 more times. [30 sts]

Round 6: *Sc in the next 4 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 5 more times. [36 sts]

Round 7: *Sc in the next 5 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 5 more times. [42 sts]

Rounds 8–15: Sc in each st around. [8 rounds @ 42 sts]

Insert 14 mm safety eyes between Rounds 11 and 12, 8 sts apart.

Round 16: *Sc in the next 5 sts, dec; rep from * 5 more times. [36 sts]

Round 17: *Sc in the next 4 sts, dec; rep from * 5 more times. [30 sts]

Round 18: *Sc in the next 3 sts, dec; rep from * 5 more times. [24 sts]

On the last st of Round 18, change to Grass Green. You've now finished the head and will begin increasing to make the body.

Round 19: *Sc in the next 3 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 5 more times. [30 sts]

Round 20: *Sc in the next 4 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 5 more times. [36 sts]

Rounds 21–24: Sc in each st around. [4 rounds @ 36 sts]

Round 25: *Sc in the next 5 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 5 more times. [42 sts]

Rounds 26–30: Sc in each st around. [5 rounds @ 42 sts]

Stuff the head fully and begin stuffing the shoulders; continue stuffing as you work the remaining rounds.

Round 31: *Sc in the next 5 sts, dec; rep from * 5 more times. [36 sts]

Round 32: *Sc in the next 4 sts, dec; rep from * 5 more times. [30 sts]

Round 33: *Sc in the next 3 sts, dec; rep from * 5 more times. [24 sts]

Round 34: *Sc in the next 2 sts, dec; rep from * 5 more times. [18 sts]

Round 35: *Sc in the next st, dec; rep from * 5 more times. [12 sts]

Finish stuffing the body before working the last round.

Round 36: Dec in each pair of st around. [6 sts]

Fasten off the yarn, leaving a short tail of 6 to 8 inches for closing the body. Add any extra stuffing before using a tapestry needle to weave the tail through the front loops of the last round. Pull the tail tight to close the body and weave in the end, then set aside.

Ears

Make 2 in Yellow

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: Sc 6 in magic ring. [6 sts]

Round 2: *Sc in the next 2 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 1 more time. [8 sts]

Round 3: *Sc in the next 3 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 1 more time. [10 sts]

Round 4: *Sc in the next 4 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 1 more time. [12 sts]

Round 5: Sc in each st around. [12 sts]

Fasten off the yarn, leaving a medium tail of 14 to 16 inches for closing the ear and attaching it to the body. Press the ear flat and stitch it closed, then set aside.

Arms and Legs

Make 4 in Grass Green

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: Sc 6 in magic ring. [6 sts]

Round 2: Inc in each st around. [12 sts]

Rounds 3–7: Sc in each st around. [5 rounds @ 12 sts]

Round 8: *Sc in the next 4 sts, dec; rep from * 1 more time. [10 sts]

Fasten off the yarn, leaving a medium tail. Using the handle end of your hook, add a small amount of stuffing to the bottom half of the limb. Press the top of the limb flat and stitch it closed, leaving the tail for attaching to the body, then set aside.

Tail

Make 1 in Grass Green

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: Sc 6 in magic ring. [6 sts]

Round 2: *Sc in the next 2 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 1 more time. [8 sts]

Round 3: *Sc in the next 3 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 1 more time. [10 sts]

Round 4: *Sc in the next 4 sts, inc in the next st; rep from * 1 more time. [12 sts]

Round 5: Sc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 6: Dec in each pair of st around. [6 sts]

Rounds 7–14: Sc in each st around. [8 rounds @ 6 sts]

Fasten off the yarn, leaving a medium tail for attaching to the body, then set aside. The tail is not stuffed.

Assembly

Gather all the pieces, a tapestry needle, and a pair of scissors.

1. Attach the ears in a straight line across the top of the head. The inside corner of the base of the ear should be attached between Rounds 2 and 3 of the head.
2. Take a medium strand of Rose yarn and use a tapestry needle to embroider the nose. The top portion of the nose should be 3 sts wide, centered between the eyes, and 1 round down from the middle of the eyes. To give the nose a T shape, make one vertical line down the center of the face, about 2 stitches long, before making multiple horizontal passes at the top of that line.
3. Take a medium strand of Black yarn and use a tapestry needle to embroider the whiskers. The whiskers are made with 3 lines that start in the same space and fan out. Begin with the middle whisker and make a horizontal line 3 sts long that starts 1 round down from the bottom of the eye and 1 st over from the outside edge of the eye. The top whisker should be a diagonal line that starts in the same space as the end of the middle whisker closer to the nose and ends 1 round up from the other end of the middle whisker. The bottom whisker should be a diagonal line that starts in the same space as the first 2 whiskers and ends 1 round down from the other end of the middle whisker.
4. Attach the arms at the shoulder, the round below the narrowest point of the neck. They should be attached on a slight diagonal, with the inside corner of the arm higher than the outside so that the arms are angled slightly forward.
5. To attach the legs, place the head and body upright on a flat surface. The leg should only have stuffing in the front half, so it should be shaped like a wedge. Without lifting the body, slide the leg into place, slightly to the inside of the arms and angled outward, and sitting on the flat surface. Hold the leg in place and lift the Dandy-Lion so you can attach it by sewing the bottom edge of the leg to the body. Repeat these steps on the other side with second leg.
6. With your Dandy-Lion still sitting on a flat surface, set the tail on the flat surface, place it at the center back of the body, and attach it.
7. For the mane, cut a large number of strands of Yellow yarn around 5 inches long. To attach them to the head we'll be using a lark's head knot: Fold the yarn in half and use your crochet hook to pull the halfway point of the yarn strand through a stitch on the head to make a small loop. Pull the two tail ends of that yarn strand through the small loop, and pull them tight to knot the strand in place. Attach strands of yarn to every stitch on the back and sides of the head, leaving a large circle for the face, which should span from

about 8 rounds above the eyes to 2 rounds below the nose and from 1 st to the outside of the whiskers on either side. If you'd like a less fluffy Dandy-Lion, feel free to attach strands of yarn to only every other stitch on the head. Once you've finished attaching all the strands, use your scissors to trim the mane to the desired length, which was around 1 inch long for my Dandy-Lion.