

# **BABY HEDGEHOG**

a free crochet pattern by Kati Galusz



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## Materials

You will only need minimal amounts of plain DK or worsted weight yarn and an eyelash yarn – these little ones are a great way to use up yarn scraps.

You will need fiberfill or other stuffing material.

For eyes, I used 6 mm black safety eyes, but you could also use small buttons or embroidery. For the nose, you will need a length of black yarn.

To sew the spine coat to the body, you will need (embroidery) thread in a color matching the fuzzy yarn.

## Hook size

I use 3mm hook with DK yarn and 3.5mm/E hook with worsted yarn, but use whatever size allows you to create a firm, gapless fabric (it will be smaller than what's recommended on the label).

For the eyelash yarn, use 5mm/H hook.

## Abbreviations (aka you need to know how to do):

start with magic ring

ch - chain

st - stitch

sc - single crochet

inc - single crochet increase

sc2tog - single crochet 2 together = single crochet decrease

BLO - work in back loop only

3-dc-bobble stitch – \*yarn over, insert hook in stitch and pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through 2 loops on hook\*, repeat \*\* two more times always working into the same stitch below, yarn over and pull through 4 loops on hook

4-dc-bobble stitch – \*yarn over, insert hook in stitch and pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through 2 loops on hook\*, repeat \*\* three more times always working into the same stitch below, yarn over and pull through 5 loops on hook

The hedgie will be worked in continuous spiral. For the plain yarn part, mark the first stitch of the round with a removable marker to keep track of your rounds.

## Eyelash yarn tips

The first and most important thing: don't worry too much! If you can hardly find the stitches while you are crocheting, absolutely nobody will see mistakes on the finished piece.

Choose a thin core eyelash yarn with fine feathers – these are easier to crochet than the type that has thick feathers, or chenille yarns. If possible, avoid black or very dark colors, they make it harder to see where the



stitches are.

Use a bigger hook than for plain yarns, I suggest 5mm/H size. While amigurumi in general should be worked very tightly to avoid gaps, the fuzz will create enough coverage here, so you can keep your tension looser than usual, more like you would use for clothing items.

Always work your stitches only in the back loop. This will both make the work easier and create a looser fabric that lets the eyelash yarn look its best.

If you can't find the stitches, try smoothing the lashes towards the already existing fabric with the thumb and middle finger of your 'yarn hand', this usually exposes the core of the yarn. If you still can't see the stitch, just insert the hook where you think it should be. If you accidentally add or lose some stitches, no problem – remember, no one is going to know. ☺

The wrong side of the piece (the one facing away from you) is much fuzzier, so that should be the outside.

In the end, free the trapped lashes with a bristle brush or by raking through the fur with a yarn needle.

### Head and body

1: 6 sc in magic ring

2: inc, sc in next 5 st (7)

3: sc in each st around (7)

4: sc in next st, inc in next 3 st, sc in next 3 st (10)

5: [inc, sc in next 4 st] twice (12)

6: \*sc in next 3 st, inc. To make the ear, ch 2, and work 2 sc in the second ch from hook.\*

Repeat \*\* one more time. Sc in next 3 st, inc (15 sc around, plus two ears)

7: sc in next 4 st, inc. Skip the stitches of the ear (push ear forward so it is out of the way); sc in next 4 st, inc, again skip the ear and sc in next 5 st (17)

8: inc, sc in next 16 st (18)

9: sc in next 7 st, inc, sc in next 3 st, inc, sc in next 5 st, 4-dc-bobble in next st (20)

10: sc in next 2 st, 4-dc-bobble, sc in next 17 st (20)

*If using safety eyes, attach them now - they should go between round 4 and 5, about 4 stitches apart. To make it easier to attach the washers in such a tight space, stick the eyes in their place, then turn the head inside out while you put on the washers. You might then use a wire cutter to chip off a few mm from the shafts if they are too long. Turn the head right side out again and stuff the snout.*

11-13: sc in each st around (20)

14: sc in next 9 st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 st, sc2tog, sc in next 4 st, 3-dc-bobble in next st (18)

15: sc in next 3 st, 3-dc-bobble, sc in next 14 st (18)

16: [sc2tog, sc in next st] 6 times (12)

*Stuff the hedgie.*

17: sc2tog 6 times (6)

Fasten off, if necessary insert a little more stuffing, then use yarn end to close the gap.

If you didn't use safety eyes, attach/embroider eyes now, between round 4 and 5.  
Embroider a nose with black yarn.



### Spine coat

Use the 5mm/H hook and work all your stitches in **back loops only**.

Chain 2, work 6 sc in the second ch from hook. Mark the 1th and 4th stitches.

From here on, continue without counting: \*Remove marker, work 3 sc in stitch and mark the middle sc, work one sc in each st until you reach to the next marked stitch.\*

Repeat \*\* until the piece is big enough to cover the body from ears to just behind the rear legs – it will take very little time so check the fit often. :)

When you reach this size, remove the marker from the next st, sl st in the st and fasten off. This side should go to the bottom of the hedgehog, the end with the other marker to the head. Remove this marker too and pin spine coat to the body. It is quite stretchy so you can gently tug on it to adjust the fit (you will probably want to pull it lower at the shoulders, it also helps to smooth fabric forward from the rear). Use embroidery thread to sew it on.

Free the trapped fuzz with a brush or a yarn needle. Since these hedgies are so tiny, the lashes will look rather long – it helps a lot if you trim them shorter around the head, so they don't cover the eyes. Of course, you can give a full body trim as well if you want, but clearing out the face usually does the trick. :)