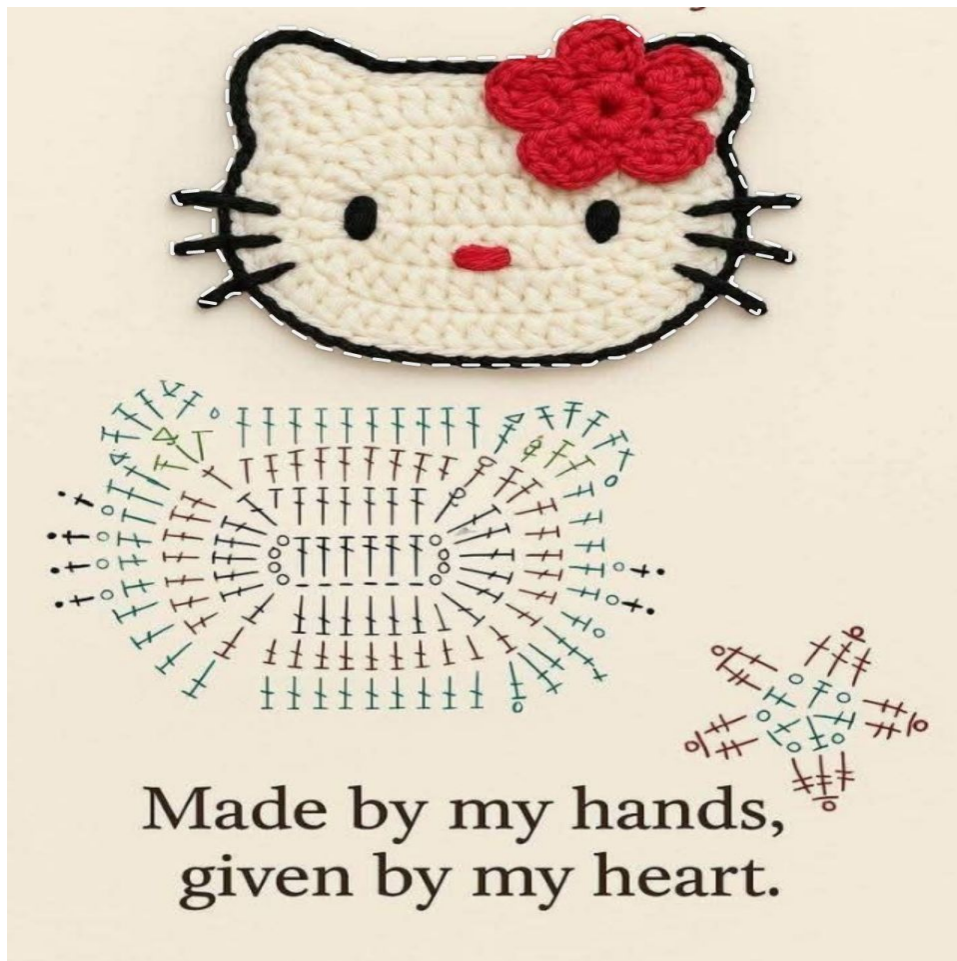


Hello Kitty Crochet Appliqué - Detailed Step-by-Step Tutorial (American Crochet Terms)

Beginner friendly — clear stages from zero to finish



Introduction This tutorial guides you through creating a Hello Kitty style crochet appliqué using American crochet terms. Each section is separated into clear steps with photos (diagram included) and tips for beginners. Work slowly, practice stitches if needed, and enjoy the process. The finished applique can be used on bags, hats, blankets, or as a patch.

Materials and Tools (Step 1) 1. Yarn: medium weight (4) cotton yarn recommended. Colors: white or cream (head), black (outline and whiskers), red (flower and nose). 2. Hook: 3.5 mm or 4.0 mm (use recommended hook on yarn label if unsure). 3. Tapestry/yarn needle for sewing and weaving ends. 4. Small scissors. 5. Stitch markers (optional). 6. Optional: small piece of fiberfill (for slight snout padding), safety eyes (optional), blocking pins and mat.

Abbreviations used (American terms) (Step 2) - ch = chain - sl st = slip stitch - sc = single crochet - hdc = half double crochet - dc = double crochet - tr = treble crochet - st(s) = stitch(es) - rnd = round - yo = yarn over

Beginner stitch practice (Step 3) Before starting the project, practice these stitches until you feel comfortable: chain, slip stitch, single crochet, half double crochet, double crochet. Make small swatches to find comfortable tension. Tension should be relaxed (not too tight) for the applique to lie

flat.

Head Base (Step 4) - Oval Shape 1. Make a slip knot and chain 8. (This creates the foundation chain for the oval base.) 2. Work 6 dc into the 2nd chain from hook and the next five chains (you are working along one side of the chain). This will create the curved edge. 3. In the last chain, make 3 dc to turn the corner and continue working around the opposite side of the foundation chain: make 6 dc across the opposite side. 4. In the final chain (where you started), make 3 dc again to form the other corner and join with sl st to the first dc. You have formed an oval round. 5. Chain 2 (counts as dc), then work rounds of dc increasing at each short end: put 2 dc in each corner space (where you made 3 dc previously) to slightly enlarge the oval. Work evenly until you have 3–4 total rounds and the shape resembles the photo. 6. Adjust rounds to achieve the face size you want. For a small applique, 3 rounds after the foundation are usually enough.

Shaping the cheeks and jaw (Step 5) 1. To create the flattened bottom (jaw) shape, on the next round reduce increases slightly at the bottom center area by working 1 dc in some stitches instead of increases, keeping the sides rounded. 2. Use the pictured diagram as a guide: the top and sides keep increases while the bottom has fewer added stitches to create a gentle curve. 3. Keep trying the piece on a flat surface to judge the silhouette; use stitch markers to mark where you want the bottom to be slightly straighter.

Ears (Step 6) 1. Choose the top-left area for the left ear. Attach yarn at the edge with a sl st. 2. ch 4, then in the 2nd chain from hook work 1 sc, in next chain work 1 hdc, in next chain work 1 dc (or adjust to make ear taller). Slip stitch back to the main head near the starting point to secure. 3. Repeat for the right ear on the opposite side, mirroring your placement. 4. If you prefer a thicker ear, make a second round around the ear or use sc all around it to define the ear shape.

Adding a border outline (Step 7) 1. With black yarn, attach at any point and work sc evenly around the entire head and ears. This creates the black outline seen in the photo. 2. Place 2 sc in the corners near ears if needed to help the yarn turn without puckering. 3. When you reach the bottom, you can add an extra stitch or skip one stitch to keep the border even. Adjust by eye for a neat outline.

Flower (Step 8) 1. Using red yarn, ch 5 and sl st to the first ch to form a ring. 2. *ch 2, 3 dc into ring, ch 2, sl st* — repeat 5 times to form 5 petals. Each petal is ch2 + 3 dc. 3. Fasten off leaving a tail for sewing. 4. Place the flower on the left top of the head and sew with the tail using a tapestry needle; hide the ends inside the applique.

Snout (Step 9) - Optional 3D snout 1. Using darker pink (or red) yarn, ch 5, then work sc across the chain (3–4 sc), then work along the other side to form a small oval disk (similar technique to the oval foundation but much smaller). 2. Optionally stuff lightly with fiberfill before closing to give a gentle 3D snout. 3. Sew the snout centered on the face. Embroider two nostrils using black yarn with small French knot-style stitches or tiny sc stitches.

Eyes and nose (Step 10) 1. For eyes, use black yarn and embroider two ovals, or insert small safety eyes before final closing if you prefer plastic eyes (note: not recommended for baby items). 2. For the tiny red nose in the photo, embroider a small horizontal oval using red yarn (a short satin stitch or tight sl st stitches can achieve this look).

Whiskers (Step 11) 1. Using black yarn and a yarn needle, stitch three short lines on each side of the face. Insert the needle from the front to back and back to front to form neat lines. 2. Secure ends on the back with a small knot and hide tails with the yarn needle.

Finishing border and neat weaving (Step 12) 1. On the back, weave all tail ends into the work using a tapestry needle. Trim close to the fabric but not into the knot. 2. If you used stuffing, close the small opening carefully with whip stitch to keep no filling showing.

Blocking and shaping (Step 13) 1. Lightly dampen the appliqué with a spray bottle or a damp cloth and pin it to a towel on a flat surface to hold the shape. 2. Allow to dry completely. This helps the applique lie flat and keeps the ears shaped beautifully.

Troubleshooting and common beginner issues (Step 14) 1. If the piece curls: your tension may be tight. Try a larger hook or loosen your grip. 2. If the piece waves: you might be increasing too much. Reduce increase frequency in the next round. 3. If the ears look uneven: count stitches and mark starting points with stitch markers for symmetry. 4. Practice the small pieces separately (flower, snout) before attaching.

Creative variations (Step 15) 1. Change yarn colors for different looks: pastel, vintage, or bold. 2. Add a scallop border in a contrasting color to make the applique pop. 3. Make matching coasters, patches for clothing, or a set of appliqués for a baby blanket.

Care instructions (Step 16) 1. Hand wash in cold water and lay flat to dry to help preserve shape and colors. 2. For machine washing, use a gentle bag and cold cycle; reshape while damp and lay flat to dry.

Project uses and ideas (Step 17) 1. Sew onto a tote bag or baby blanket for personalized gifts. 2. Make a set and stitch them together as a panel for a cute wall hanging. 3. Attach a magnet to the back for an adorable fridge decoration.

Final encouragement (Step 18) Crocheting this Hello Kitty appliqué is a great way to practice shaping, small motifs, and embroidery. Take your time, enjoy each step, and remember that handmade items are uniquely charming because of the small variations that make them yours.

Appendix: Stitch Practice

Appendix: Step-by-step stitch practice exercises

- 1) Chain Practice: - Make several chains of 10-20 stitches. Practice pulling loops gently and keeping even tension.
- 2) Single Crochet (sc) Practice: - Insert hook into 2nd chain from hook, yo and pull up a loop (2 loops on hook), yo and pull through both loops. Repeat across a chain to practice neat sc rows.
- 3) Double Crochet (dc) Practice: - Chain 3 to start, yarn over, insert into stitch, yo and pull up (3 loops), yo pull through 2, yo pull through last 2. Practice to keep height consistent.
- 4) Half Double Crochet (hdc) Practice: - Chain 2 to start, yo, insert, pull up (3 loops), yo, pull through all 3 loops.
- 5) Slip Stitch (sl st) Practice: - Insert hook, yo, pull yarn through loop on hook. Used for joins and finishing edges.

Keep a small scrap to test gauge by working a round following the pattern's initial rounds. This scrap will help you see how your tension affects shape.