



○ Correntinha • Ponto Baixo † Meio Ponto Alto ‡ Ponto Alto †† Ponto Alto Duplo × Ponto Baixíssimo

Introduction

This Adorable Dog Rug crochet pattern is written using standard United States crochet terminology and is designed specifically for complete beginners. Every section explains not only what to do, but why you are doing it, so that you can confidently understand the structure of the rug while building your skills. The design is worked in separate pieces including the head, ears, muzzle, and paws, which are then assembled. The rug is sturdy, washable, and perfect for nurseries, playrooms, or decorative spaces.

Materials and Tools

To successfully complete this project, you will need worsted weight (Category 4) yarn in light brown, dark brown, white, and black. Choose a durable acrylic or cotton blend yarn commonly available in the United States. You will also need a 5.5 mm (I-9) crochet hook, stitch markers, scissors, a yarn needle for weaving in ends, and a non-slip rug backing if desired. Using quality materials ensures durability and professional results.

Understanding Basic Stitches (US Terms)

This pattern uses the following standard US stitches: Chain (ch), Slip Stitch (sl st), Single Crochet (sc), Half Double Crochet (hdc), Double Crochet (dc), and Increase (2 stitches in same stitch). Beginners should practice maintaining consistent tension before starting the rug. Even tension ensures the rug lays flat and keeps the shape symmetrical. If your fabric curls, your tension may be too tight. If it waves, it may be too loose.

Creating the Base Head Shape

Begin with a magic ring or chain 4 and join to form a ring. Work in continuous rounds unless otherwise specified. Increase evenly in each round to form a flat oval or circle, following traditional American rug crochet methods. Continue increasing gradually to avoid rippling. The head should lay completely flat on the floor when finished. Blocking lightly with steam can help even the stitches without stretching the yarn.

Shaping the Ears

The ears are worked separately in rows to create a soft curved shape. Start with a foundation chain wide enough for the ear base. Work single crochet and half double crochet stitches across, increasing slightly toward the outer edge to create a rounded contour. Consistency in stitch height will help both ears match in size. Always count your stitches at the end of each row to maintain symmetry.

Constructing the Muzzle

The muzzle is worked in white yarn using joined rounds. Begin with a small oval foundation and increase at both ends to maintain the oval shape. Keep the stitches compact to give the muzzle structure. After finishing, embroider the nose and mouth using black yarn and a yarn needle. Use small, tight stitches to prevent snagging during use as a rug.

Making the Paws

Each paw is crocheted in a circular shape similar to the head but on a smaller scale. Work in continuous rounds and increase evenly. Add embroidered toe details using black yarn. Make sure each paw matches in size before attaching. Blocking each piece lightly before assembly ensures professional alignment.

Assembly and Finishing

Lay all pieces flat before sewing to confirm placement. Attach ears slightly behind the head's midpoint for a natural look. Sew the muzzle centered on the lower half of the face. Attach paws evenly spaced at the bottom. Use strong whip stitches when sewing pieces together to ensure durability. Weave in all ends securely and trim excess yarn carefully.

Best Practices for Rug Durability

For long-lasting results, use tight stitches and durable yarn. Consider adding a non-slip rug pad to the underside for safety. Wash on gentle cycle in cold water and air dry flat to maintain shape. Avoid high heat drying as it may distort stitches. Checking stitch counts regularly and maintaining even tension are key habits that improve overall crochet quality.

Final Measurements and Customization

The finished rug typically measures approximately 30 to 36 inches wide depending on yarn weight and personal tension. You may increase size by adding additional increase rounds to the head section. Always increase evenly to preserve the circular shape. Custom color variations can personalize the rug while keeping the same structural technique.