

Crochet Horse Rug Pattern (Head, Neck & Mane – Detailed Version)

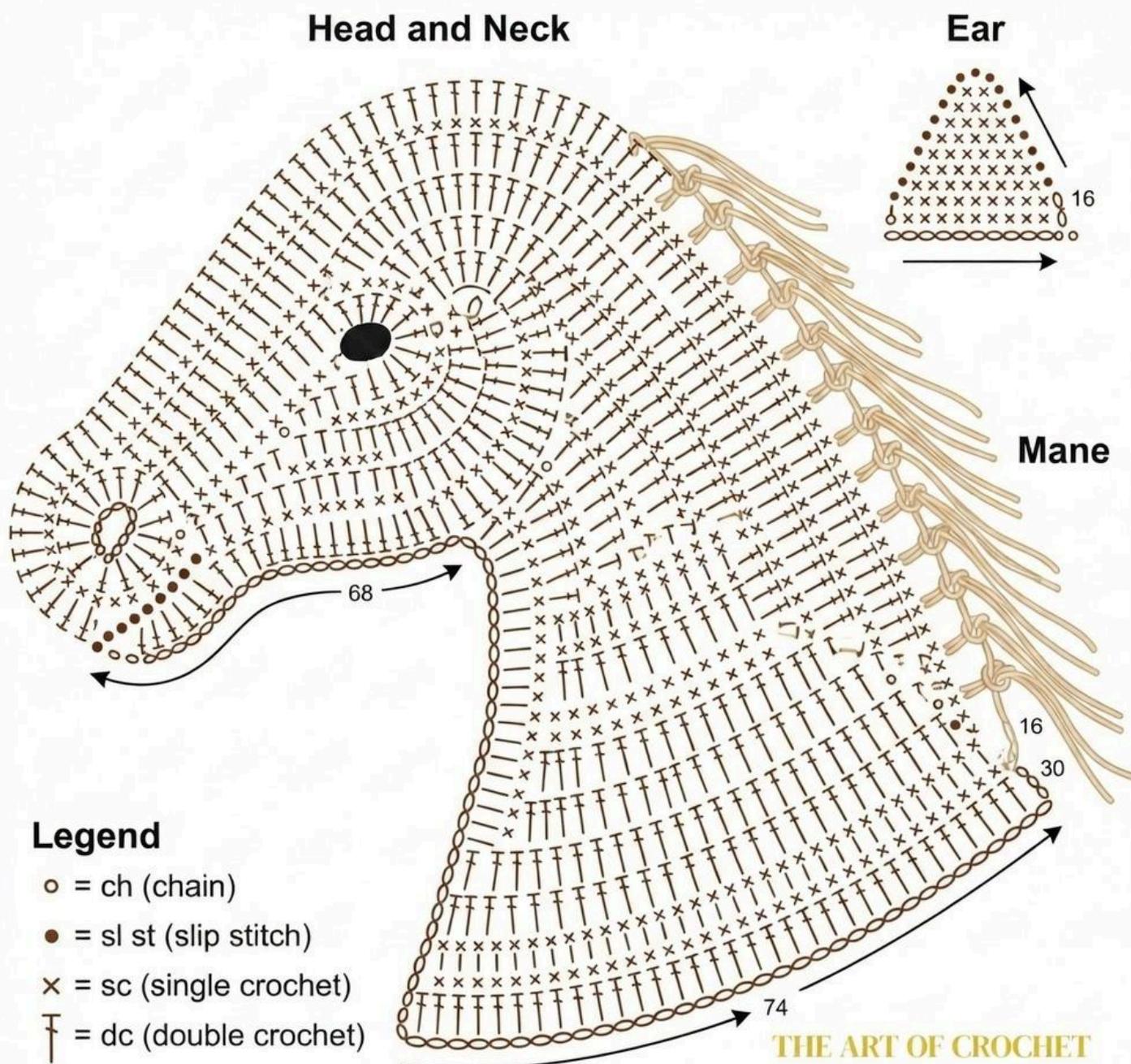
This highly detailed crochet pattern creates a realistic horse head rug or wall piece. The design uses shaping, stitch variation, and strategic increases to form smooth curves for the muzzle, head, and neck, with added texture for a natural look.

Finished Size

Height: 50–70 cm (20–28 inches)

Width: 35–55 cm (14–22 inches)

Size will vary depending on yarn thickness and hook size



Skill Level

Intermediate to Advanced

You should be comfortable with:

- Working in the round and in rows
- Increasing and decreasing
- Basic shaping techniques
- Color changes (optional)

Materials Needed

Yarn (medium to bulky recommended):

- Main color (beige, tan, brown, gray)
- Mane color (same tone or contrasting)
- Black yarn (eye and nostril detail)

Crochet hook: 4.5 mm – 6 mm

Tapestry needle

Scissors

Stitch markers

Optional: fabric backing or anti-slip base

Stitch Legend (US Terms)

ch – Chain

sl st – Slip Stitch

sc – Single Crochet

dc – Double Crochet

inc – Increase (2 stitches in same stitch)

dec – Decrease (2 stitches together)

st – Stitch

Construction Overview

The piece is worked in one continuous structure:

1. Muzzle (oval base)
 2. Head shaping (in rounds)
 3. Forehead height (using taller stitches)
 4. Neck (worked in rows)
 5. Ear (separate piece)
 6. Mane (attached fringe)
 7. Border finishing
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Step-by-Step Instructions

Muzzle (Oval Base)

Start with main color

Round 1:

ch 6

Work into second chain from hook:

- sc in next 4 stitches
- 3 sc in last chain (turning point)
- continue along opposite side of chain
- sc in next 4 stitches
- 2 sc in last stitch

(12 stitches total approx.)

Round 2:

- inc in first stitch
- sc across
- 3 inc at rounded end

- sc across
- 2 inc at other end

Round 3–5:

- continue increasing only at curved ends
- keep sides mostly straight
- aim for smooth oval shape

Tip: This forms the horse's nose structure—keep it slightly elongated, not circular

Head Expansion

Round 6–10:

- work evenly around
- add increases gradually across upper half
- keep lower muzzle flatter

Round 11–14:

- increase more on top side to build forehead
- begin slight inward shaping near jaw (use occasional dec)

Add nostrils (optional):

- embroider small ovals with black yarn near front
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Eye Placement

Place eye slightly above muzzle center

Option 1 (embroidered):

- use black yarn to stitch almond shape
- add small white stitch for highlight

Option 2 (crochet piece):

- magic ring, 6 sc
 - fasten off and sew
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Forehead and Top Head

Round 15–20:

- alternate sc and dc stitches
- dc stitches placed on top center create height
- continue increasing slightly to round skull

Tip: Taller stitches help mimic natural head curvature

Neck Formation (Worked in Rows)

Now switch from rounds to rows

Identify bottom half of head

Row 1:

Attach yarn at one side of base

sc across lower stitches only (approx. 40–50 sts)

Row 2:

ch 1, turn

inc at beginning and end

sc across

Row 3–10:

- continue rows
- increase every 2–3 rows at edges

- gradually widen neck

Goal: reach ~70–75 stitches across base

Tip: Keep edges slightly angled outward to resemble neck flare

Shaping the Jaw Curve

On early neck rows:

- skip 1 stitch at beginning for slight inward curve
 - this creates natural jawline indentation
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Ear (Make 1 or 2)

ch 16

Row 1: sc across

Row 2: ch 1, turn, dec, sc across, dec

Row 3+: repeat decreasing each row

Continue until triangle forms

Optional:

- fold slightly and stitch base for 3D effect

Sew to top of head at slight angle

Mane (Fringe Method)

Cut yarn strands (10–20 cm length depending on desired fullness)

Attach along back edge:

- insert hook through stitch
- pull yarn loop halfway

- pull ends through loop (lark's head knot)

Repeat across entire neck and head back

Layering tip:

- add 2 strands per stitch for fuller mane

Trim evenly or leave slightly uneven for natural look

Border

Round around entire piece:

Round 1: sc evenly

- place 2–3 sc in corners to avoid curling

Round 2 (optional):

- sl st for clean edge
OR
 - decorative scallop: 5 dc in one stitch, skip next
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Finishing

Weave in all ends securely

Lightly steam block (do not flatten texture)

Trim mane to desired shape

Optional:

- sew onto fabric backing
 - add anti-slip material for floor use
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Tips for Best Results

Use tighter tension for durability (especially if used as rug)

Keep increases gradual to avoid rippling

If edges curl → add more increases

If ruffles form → reduce increases

Use stitch markers to track:

- center top of head
- neck edges

Customization Ideas

Use bulky yarn for a thicker, plush rug

Add shading with multiple tones of the same color

Create a unicorn version (add horn)

Turn into wall art by mounting on canvas

Make mini version as appliqué or bag decoration