



Hook & Web Designs Presents:
Treasured Heirlooms Crochet

Original designs by Michelle Crean

www.TreasuredHeirloomsCrochet.com



CATNIP BALLS

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(Note: Humane organizations in our area are selling sewn catnip bags and crocheted balls for \$1 at local vet's offices and other participating businesses to fund their community spay/neuter program. The best way to solve the pet overpopulation problem in this country is at its source: vastly reducing the number of unwanted puppies and kittens born each year, and educating the public about their responsibilities to companion animals.)



SKILL LEVEL:

■ □ □ □ Beginner

FINISHED SIZE:

Approx. 5.75" circumference around center of ball. Due to variations in yarn thickness, finished size may also vary.

Note: for larger ball with approx. 6.5" circumference, use one size larger hook and add one sc row, as indicated.

MATERIALS:

- Worsted weight yarn (Size 4/Medium), 10 – 12 yds.
- Size F (G) aluminum crochet hook (or size to obtain gauge)
- Fiberfill
- Raw dried & ground Catnip
- Zip-top bag

GAUGE:

With F hook, 5 sc = 1" & 5 rows sc = 1"

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PATTERN NOTES:

When working in Rnds, mark 1st sc and do not join unless otherwise directed.

St should be tight and closely worked.

SPECIAL STITCHES:

Sc dec (sc 2 st tog): insert hook in st, yo, draw up loop, insert hook in next st, yo, draw up loop, yo, draw through all loops on hook.

PREPARATION:

Put a few of handfuls of fiberfill, separated into “pinch-size” pieces, into zipper-top bag, leaving room to shake catnip around and through the fiberfill pieces.

Pour in about half a cup of raw, dried, ground catnip.

Seal bag tightly; shake until catnip is well blended throughout the fiberfill.

Let sit overnight so that the fragrance of the catnip permeates the fiberfill.

Caution: do NOT let pets eat the fiberfill!

INSTRUCTIONS:

Rnd 1: Ch 2, 5 sc in 2nd ch fm hook. (5 sc)

Rnd 2 (increase rnd): (2 sc in next sc) 5 times. (10 sc)

Rnd 3 (increase rnd): (Sc in next sc, 2 sc in next sc) 5 times. (15 sc)

Rnd 4 (increase rnd): (Sc in next 2 sc, 2 sc in next sc) 5 times. (20 sc)

Rnd 5 (increase rnd): (Sc in next 3 sc, 2 sc in next sc) 5 times. (25 sc)

Rnds 6 – 7: Sc in each sc around. (*Note: for larger ball, make one more rnd of sc in each sc around.*)

Rnd 8 (decrease rnd): (Sc in next 3 sc, sc next 2 sc tog) 5 times. (20 sc)

Rnd 9 (decrease rnd): (Sc in next 2 sc, sc next 2 sc tog) 5 times. (15 sc)

Rnd 10 (decrease rnd): (Sc in next sc, sc next 2 sc tog) 5 times. (10 sc)

Stuff firmly with catnip/fiberfill mixture.

Rnd 11 (decrease rnd): (Sc next two sc tog) 6 times or until top opening is closed. Join with sl st to top of next sc, fasten off. Pull yarn end down through center of ball to inside.

NOTE: *The “tip jars” shown in the photograph are made from recycled glass applesauce jars that have been etched using custom-cut stencils and glass etching supplies from Egress Etch, www.egressetch.com. Egress Etch proudly supports animal welfare efforts.*



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