LITTLE HIPPOPOTAMUS

(by Roswitha Mueller)



IMPORTANT NOTICE

This pattern is for personal and private use only. Neither it nor the products made from it may be sold.
Comments and corrections are appreciated.

General Information

Materials

Yarn: sport to worsted weight yarn, ca 60 - 100 g, depending on weight
2 black safety eyes (7.5 to 9 mm, depending on yarn weight)
Hook: 2 mm/size B to 2.5 mm/size C
Toy filling
Stitch marker
Tapestry needle

Finished measurements

ca 19 cm to 24 cm/7.5 in to 9.5 in in length, depending on yarn weight

Abbreviations and notes on writing conventions

sc	single crochet
dc	double crochet
ch	chain
st	stitch
sl st	slip stitch
inc	increase
dec	decrease by crocheting two stitches together
MC	Magic Circle (= 2 ch, 6 sc in 2nd st from hook. Then either close or go on in a spiral)

This pattern is written using US notation.

In the description of the body, there are some stitches set in bold. This is for orientation only: the bold stitches (or numbers) mark the central line running down the underside of the body.

Some remarks on assembling the body

Stuffing the body parts

Head and legs should be stuffed quite tightly; do not, however, stuff the last two to three rows of the legs. The body should be stuffed a bit softer – this makes for a cuddlier animal and, in more technical terms, allows for more ease in sewing the legs to the body.

Forming the upper part of the legs and sewing them to the body

I am employing a slightly unusual method here, which I think results in a better look. Usually, especially with mammals, you would change in the last few rows of a leg from crocheting in the round to rows, with a length of about half the last round of the leg in the beginning, and then shortening these rows as you go back and forth. This results in a very nice flap, which can then be sewn to the animal body. However, the texture of these rows looks quite different from that of the rounds (because single crochets look different from front and back).

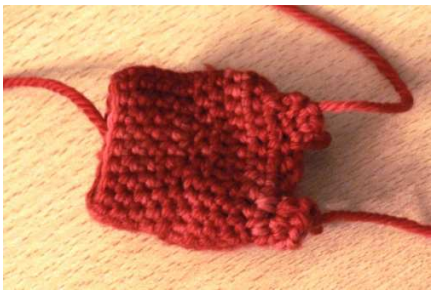
This is why my patterns call for crocheting the whole leg in the round, up to the top. The flap for sewing the leg to the body thus has to be generated differently. The simplest way to do this is to fold the last two or three rows of the leg in on the inside of the leg. Then, on the outside of the body, sew the top row of the leg to the body, on the inside sew stitches from a few rows down to the body (how far to go down might depend on the specific pattern). Going from outside to inside allow for some stitches where you sew a diagonal line from top row down to the lower row, and correspondingly, going from inside to outside again.

(See also illustration and instructions in pattern for sewing the legs to the body)

ILLUSTRATIONS



(1) Upper jaw, row 3



(2) Upper jaw, with nostrils attached, turned inside out



(3) Upper jaw, turned the right side out



(4) Lower jaw



(5) Upper and lower jaw, crocheted together (row 10)



(6) Head, row 14



(7) Fully stuffed head with eyes inserted



(8) Finished head and body



(9) Ears



(10) Legs



(11) Leg sewn to the body

Note that on the outside, stitches from the top row in the leg are sewn to the body. On the inside, stitches from three rows down are sewn to the body. In between follow a diagonal line.



(12) Hind legs



(13) Adding the ears and shaping the nose



(14) Rear view, with tail added



FINISHED!

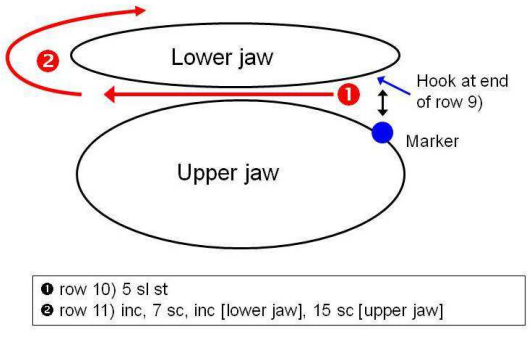
MAKING THE PARTS

	No of st in row
UPPER JAW *Every round is closed w sl st + ch*	
1) 6 ch (with doubled yarn), 1 ch (single yarn)	6 (+1)
2) on one side of foundation chain: sc in 2nd st from hook; 4 sc, in last ch 3 sc, on other side of foundation chain 4 sc, in last ch 2 sc, close w sl st + ch	14
3) inc, 3 ch (this produces a little loop for the 1st nostril. Do not skip any sc of the previous round for this), sc, dec, sc, 3 ch (loop for 2nd nostril), inc, 8 sc (ill 1)	21
4) sc, inc, 9 sc, inc, sc, inc, 6 sc, inc	25
5) – 6) sc	
7) 6 sc, dec, sc, dec, 14 sc	23
8) dec, 3 sc, dec, sc, dec, 3 sc, dec, 8 sc	19
9) 5 sc, 2x inc, 8 sc, dec, 2 sc	20
10) – 12) sc, f.o., mark end of row	
NOSTRILS	
Turn jaw inside out.	
1) In each nostril, 6 sc	6
2) sc, f.o. and close the end of the little tube with a stitch, turn jaw back (ill 2 and 3)	
LOWER JAW *Every round is closed w sl st + ch*	
1) 4 sc (with doubled yarn), 1 ch (single yarn)	
2) On one side of foundation chain 3 sc, in last ch 5 sc, on other side of foundation chain 2 sc, in last ch 4 sc, close w sl st + ch	14
3) – 9) sc, do not f.o. (ill 4)	14
COMBINING THE JAWS	

10) Hook the inner parts of the jaws together with 5 sl st. For this align the last st of the lower jaw with the marker in the upper jaw, hook 5 st together, and then start the next round along the outside of the lower jaw (see graphic and ill 5).

Tightly stuff upper jaw; but push nostrils in with the back of your crocheting hook or any other slim stick.
The lower jaw will not be filled. Depending on the softness of the yarn used, however, a bit of pipe cleaner, bent into a U-shape, could be inserted to stiffen the shape of the lower jaw.

Note: The beginning of row 11) is between the two arrows as shown in the illustration.



HEAD, NECK AND BODY *From here in a spiral*	
11) inc, 7 sc, inc [lower jaw], 15 sc [upper jaw] skip any excess stitches in the corners of the mouth	26
12) sc	
13) 2x (inc, 4 sc), inc, 7 sc, inc, 7 sc **Note**: If done correctly, the increases in this row should be positioned as follows: 1st inc is mouth left corner, 3rd inc is mouth right corner 2nd inc mid-lower jaw, 4th inc mid-brow	30
14) inc, 12 sc, inc, 5 sc, inc ch (i.e. mini-loop of two ch over 1 st; this is for the eye), 5 sc, inc ch, 4 sc (ill 6)	34
15) 26 sc, inc, 7 sc	35
16) – 20) sc	
21) 5 sc, dec, 2 sc, dec, **sc**, dec, 2 sc, dec, 17 sc	31
22) sc	
23) 6 sc, 3x dec, 19 sc Insert eyes and stuff head tightly (ill 7)	28
24) 4x (sc, inc), 4x (inc, sc), 12 sc	36
25) 5 sc, 3x (sc, inc), **sc**, 3x (inc, sc), 18 sc	42
26) sc	
27) sc, dec, 2x (4 sc, inc), **4** sc, 2x (inc, 4 sc), dec, 3 sc, dec, 4 sc, dec, 2 sc	42
28) – 29) sc	
30) 3 sc, 2x (4 sc, inc), 2 sc, inc, **4** sc, inc, 2 sc, inc, 4 sc, inc, 13 sc	48
31) sc	
32) 3 sc, dec, 6 sc, inc, 4 sc, inc, **10** sc, inc, 4 sc, inc, 6 sc, dec, sc, dec, 2 sc, dec	48
33) sc	
34) 3 sc, 2x (6 sc, inc), 4 sc, inc, **4** sc, inc, 4 sc, inc, 6 sc, inc, 9 sc	54
35) sc	
36) 6x (inc, 8 sc)	60
37) sc	
38) 6x (inc, 9 sc)	66
39) – 53) sc	
54) 18 sc, 3x (dec, 4 sc), 3x (4 sc, dec), 12 sc	60
55) sc	
56) 18 sc, 3x (dec, 3 sc), 3x (3 sc, dec), 12 sc	54
57) – 60) sc	
61) 6x (dec, 7 sc)	48
62) sc	
63) 6x (dec, 6 sc)	42
64) 6x (dec, 5 sc) Stuff body; stuff the rest as you go.	36
65) 6x (dec, 4 sc)	30
66) 6x (dec, 3 sc)	24
67) 6x (dec, 2 sc)	18
68) 6x (dec, sc)	12
69) 6x dec, f.o. and close (ill 8)	6

EARS *make two*	
1) 2 ch, 6 sc in 2nd ch from hook, ch + turn	6
2) 6x inc, f.o. Leave a length of yarn for sewing the ear to the body. (ill 9)	12
FORELEGS *In a spiral; make two*	
1) MC 6	6
2) 6x inc	12
3) 6x (inc, sc)	18
4) sc	
5) 4x dec, 10 sc	14
6) 2x dec, 10 sc Stuff foot. From here on, stuff the leg as you go	12
7) – 14) sc	
15) inc, 2 sc, inc, 2 sc, inc, 5 sc	15
16) – 17) sc,f.o. Leave a length of yarn for sewing the leg to the body. (ill 10, on the left)	
HIND LEGS *In a spiral; make two*	
1) MC 6	6
2) 6x inc	12
3) 6x (inc, sc)	18
4) sc	
5) 4x dec, 10 sc	14
6) 2x dec, 10 sc	12
7) – 14) sc	
15) inc, sc, 4x inc, sc, inc, 2x dec	16
16) – 19) sc, f.o. Leave a length of yarn for sewing the leg to the body. (ill 10, on the right)	

Assembling the Animal

Legs

To get the legs into the correct position, on the outside of the body sew the top row of the leg to the body; on the inside (i.e. between the legs) sew the third row of the leg to the body. Moving from the outside to the inside, follow a diagonal line for two to three stitches. The remaining rows on the inside can be folded into the leg (or simply pressed into the body - that depends on the elasticity of the filling and yarn used). (ill 11 and 12)

Ears

Fold in half and sew on head a few rows behind and about at the same height as the eyes.

Nose

Insert a separate piece of yarn about two rows from eyes (between nose and eyes) and slightly lower than the eyes are, draw the thread through to the corresponding place on the other side of the head, insert needle again as closely as possible to the exit point and again draw through the head, exiting as closely as possible to the beginning. Pull the yarn very tight and knot off. (ill 13)

Tail

The tail is a twisted cord of about 2 – 3 cm (1 – 1½ in) length. Knot this off and leave a few strands of yarn of about 1 cm (½ in) in length. (ill 14)

And Little Hippo is finished!

