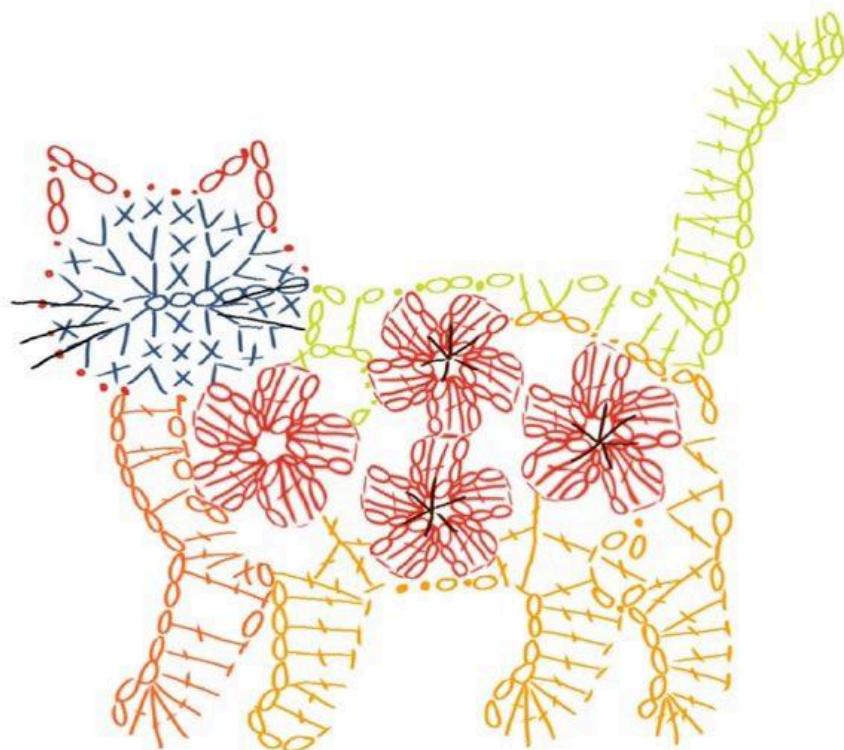


Crochet Cat Appliqué — Beginner-Friendly Step-by-Step (US terms)



This tutorial teaches you, from absolute beginner level, how to crochet the delicate **cat appliqu** shown in the photo using the provided chart. The instructions use US crochet terminology and are arranged so a beginner can reproduce the exact shape and lace from the diagram. Follow the chart colors and the step order: **head (blue)** → **flower motifs (red)** → **body mesh & joining (yellow/orange)** → **legs (yellow/orange)** → **tail (green)** → **outline & finishing**.

Materials

- Yarn: smooth cotton or cotton-blend (light fingering / sport / DK). Mercerized cotton recommended for crisp stitch definition.
- Hook: US C–E (2.75–3.5 mm) depending on yarn and desired scale.
- Tapestry needle for weaving ends and for embroidered whiskers.
- Small scissors.
- Optional: blocking board, pins, and a spray bottle.
- Optional: contrasting embroidery floss for flower centers or whiskers.

Abbreviations (US terminology)

- ch = chain
- sl st = slip stitch
- sc = single crochet
- hdc = half double crochet
- dc = double crochet
- tr = treble crochet (if chart shows tall stitches)
- st = stitch
- sp = space
- RS = right side

- WS = wrong side

Chart Legend — reading the diagram

The diagram uses common crochet symbols. Use this mapping when following the chart:

- Small oval = ch (chain)
- Small filled dot = sl st (slip stitch)
- Short vertical bar = sc (single crochet)
- Taller vertical bar with a slash = dc (double crochet)
- Clustered tall stitches (petal shapes) = puff or cluster stitches forming flower petals
- Lines branching from the face = embroidery whiskers (stitch later with floss)

If a symbol is unfamiliar, treat ovals as chains, short verticals as sc, and tall verticals as dc — that will preserve the lacy look.

General construction overview

1. **Head (blue)** — worked as a small round/short-round solid piece. Embroidered whiskers afterward.
2. **Flowers (red)** — four floral cluster motifs across the body; each is a puff/cluster flower. They may be worked in place or made separately and attached.
3. **Body mesh (yellow/orange)** — open diamond mesh built from repeated chain + dc groups that connects the flowers and defines the cat silhouette.
4. **Legs (yellow/orange)** — narrow columns worked down from the body edge.
5. **Tail (green)** — long chain with return stitches to give width.
6. **Edge** — a round of single crochet around the whole piece to shape and stabilize.

Before you start — practice swatches

- Make a small sample of the mesh repeat (one or two diamonds) to ensure you understand how the dc groups line up.
- Practice a single flower cluster (puff or cluster stitch) on scrap yarn to match the look in the chart.

STEP-BY-STEP: HEAD (follow the blue section)

1. **Start:** Make a magic ring (recommended) OR ch 6 and sl st to form a ring.
2. **Round 1:** ch 1, work 6 sc into the ring (or follow exact count drawn on chart). Join with sl st if the chart uses joined rounds, otherwise continue working in spiral if you prefer.
3. **Round 2:** Increase to form the head circle. Example increase: *sc in next st, 2 sc in next st* around — adjust to match chart counts. The goal is a slightly oval/squared shape for the face.
4. **Round 3:** Work a small number of short rounds of sc or hdc to form the forehead and cheek shape. Use the chart to determine where the ear bases will be.
5. **Ears:** The chart shows two small triangular ear shapes that are typically formed by short rows or small chains attached and worked into with sc. Example ear construction: from the top edge, ch 3–5, work back down into chains with sc or hdc to create a pointed ear; make the second ear symmetrically. Match the stitch counts shown in the blue diagram.
6. **Eyes:** The chart indicates small space(s) or embroidery marks for eyes. Do not attach safety eyes — embroider small eyes after blocking for an appliqué intended for general use.
7. **Finish head:** Fasten off and weave in ends if you will join later; otherwise continue into the neck if the chart is continuous.

STEP-BY-STEP: WHISKERS (embroidery)

- The whiskers are drawn as simple straight lines from the cheeks. After your piece is blocked and secure, use a tapestry needle and thin embroidery thread or floss to

stitch three whiskers per side. Anchor the thread on the WS and bring short straight stitches to the RS as shown in the chart.

STEP-BY-STEP: FLOWER MOTIFS (red clusters)

The chart shows four floral clusters placed in the cat's body. They can be worked **in place** while building the mesh, or worked as small motifs and sewn on. Below is an **in-place** method that matches the chart style:

1. **Center ring:** Make a small ring (magic loop or ch 4–6 joined).
2. **Round 1 (base petals):** ch3 (counts as first dc), then work the number of dc into the ring indicated by chart (e.g., 8–12 dc) to form a round base — check the diagram for counts. Join with sl st if chart uses rounds.
3. **Petal round:** For each petal, the diagram shows tall clustered lines. This is usually a puff or cluster petal. Example petal sequence: *yarn over, insert hook into ring, yarn over & pull up loop; repeat into same stitch 3–4 times to make multiple long loops, yarn over & pull through all loops, ch1 to close petal.* Repeat to make the indicated number of petals (commonly 5–8 petals).
4. **Finish:** Fasten off or continue the mesh joining the petal bases with chains as the diagram indicates. The center of the flower can be embroidered with a few french knots or short stitches in contrasting floss (the photo shows a tiny star/knotted center).

If making flowers separately: leave a long tail to sew them into the mesh later using a yarn needle.

STEP-BY-STEP: BODY MESH (yellow / orange area)

The cat's body is a decorative mesh of diamond cells created by chaining between dc posts. The chart shows a typical mesh that repeats across the body.

Common mesh repeat (use the number of chains shown in the chart — often ch2 or ch3):

- *dc, ch3, skip 2 sts, dc into next st* — this creates one diamond edge. On the next row, offset your dc so they sit into the chain space of the prior row, producing diamonds.

How to work it following the chart:

1. When the neck meets the body, work a foundation of dc stitches across the width where the mesh begins (this gives anchor points for the first diamond row). The chart shows where to place the foundation dc — count carefully.
2. **First mesh row:** Work the mesh repeat across the body width, following the chart's placement of chains and dc groups. Where the chart shows a flower, stop and work the flower cluster (if working in place) into the corresponding mesh cell.
3. **Subsequent rows:** Offset each row so the dc groups in the new row are inserted into the chain spaces of the row below (this alternation builds the diamond look). Follow the chart outline carefully so edges form the cat silhouette — sometimes a row will be shorter to create a curved outline at the belly or rump — replicate those shortened rows exactly.
4. Keep tension consistent. If you want smaller diamonds, use ch2 for each mesh hole; for larger lacy diamonds, use ch3.

STEP-BY-STEP: LEGS (lower yellow/orange)

Each of the four legs is worked down from the body edge — the chart shows them as narrow columns, often with slightly fanned bases.

1. **Placement:** Identify the exact points on the body edge from which the four legs descend — the chart indicates spacing.
2. **Work a leg:** From the body edge stitch, work a narrow column using sc (or dc if chart shows taller stitches). Columns are typically 2–4 stitches wide depending on the size shown. Work downwards for the number of rows shown on the chart to reach the foot length.
3. **Foot shaping:** If the chart shows a fanned or wider foot, add clusters or 2–3 sc/dc into a single stitch at the bottom row to form the toe shape.
4. **Repeat:** Work each leg in the same manner, following the chart spacing. Keep stitch counts identical for symmetry.
5. **Finish legs:** Fasten off and weave ends on the wrong side.

STEP-BY-STEP: TAIL (green)

The tail is indicated by a long chain with return rows that thicken it.

1. **Chain the tail length** exactly as the chart shows (the green section in your diagram).
2. **Work back** along the chain in sc or hdc to create a wider, padded tail: insert your hook into each chain and work sc (or hdc) back toward the body. This creates a flattened tail with thickness.
3. **Attach:** If the tail is worked separately, sew it to the body at the attachment point shown on the chart. If the chart shows it worked in place, continue directly from the body edge.

JOINING FLOWERS (if worked separately)

- Position each flower in its place following the chart. Use the long tails from finishing each flower to whipstitch them into place on the mesh with a tapestry needle, taking care not to distort adjacent mesh stitches. Secure knots on the WS.

OUTER OUTLINE — single crochet edging

1. Reattach yarn at any outer edge point.
2. Work a round of **sc** around the entire cat appliqué: place 1 sc in each stitch and 1 sc in each chain space along the outer perimeter.
3. For tight corners (areas where legs meet body or where tail meets body), add 2 sc in the same stitch to prevent the edge from pulling in.
4. Around the flower petals (delicate areas), use small sl sts or very small sc to avoid stretching petals outward.
5. Fasten off and weave ends neatly on the WS.

BLOCKING & FINISHING

1. Lightly dampen the finished appliqué or carefully steam it.

2. Pin it to a blocking board in the exact shape shown in the photo, paying special attention to ear points, tail curve, and leg spacing.
3. Shape the flower petals and whiskers with fine pins if needed.
4. Allow to dry fully.
5. Weave in all ends securely on the WS. Trim tails.

TIPS FOR BEGINNERS

- Practice the flower cluster (puff/cluster) and the mesh repeat on scrap yarn before starting the full piece.
- Use a smaller hook if diamonds are too large for the photo look.
- Keep each flower and the mesh centered and count stitches frequently so motifs line up.
- Use stitch markers to mark the start of rows/rounds when shaping the head and body.
- Work slowly on antialias details (ears, whiskers, tail) — small counting errors are easier to fix early.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- **Mesh holes too large:** switch to a smaller hook or reduce chain count in the mesh repeat (e.g., ch2 instead of ch3).
- **Flowers misaligned:** you may have shifted a mesh row — rip back to previous row, recount, and rejoin.
- **Ears/face lopsided:** check increases/decreases in head rounds. Fix by adjusting the small rounds to rebalance counts.
- **Tail won't sit:** block tail with stiffer shaping or add a small amount of diluted starch to help it hold curve.

FAQ

Q — Can I make the flowers separately?

A — Yes. Work each flower as a small motif and sew them to the mesh. The chart shows them integrated, but sewing later is simpler for beginners.

Q — What yarn is best?

A — Smooth cotton (mercerized) is best for crisp mesh and visible petal clusters.

Q — Can I make it larger?

A — Use thicker yarn and a larger hook. Keep the same mesh and cluster ratios for similar look.

Q — Is this safe for children's items?

A — Sew or embroider eyes and whiskers with thread (avoid small beads if it will be used by young children).

Conclusion

You now have a full, beginner-friendly, and chart-guided tutorial to recreate the cat appliquéd from the photo step-by-step. The recommended workflow is:

Head (blue) → Flowers (red, made in place or sewn) → Body mesh (yellow/orange) → Legs (yellow/orange) → Tail (green) → Single crochet outline → Block & finish.