FULL CROCHET REINDEER APPLIQUÉ — COMPLETE

This tutorial teaches you, from absolute beginner level, how to crochet the delicate **reindeer appliqué** shown in the photo using the provided chart. The instructions follow international crochet standards but use **US crochet terminology**, which is ideal for American crocheters. The guide includes all materials, abbreviations, symbol explanations, and detailed step-by-step instructions to reproduce the reindeer exactly as the diagram shows.

This flat reindeer appliqué is perfect for Christmas ornaments, gift tags, blankets, clothing decorations, or home décor pieces. The body uses an airy lace mesh, and the head, neck, legs, and antlers are worked in simple stitches that beginners can learn quickly.

MATERIALS

- Light fingering, sport, or DK cotton yarn

- Crochet hook size C, D, or E (2.75–3.5 mm)

- Tapestry needle

- Scissors

- Optional: blocking board and pins for shaping

ABBREVIATIONS (US TERMS)

ch = chain
sl st = slip stitch
sc = single crochet
hdc = half double crochet
dc = double crochet
sp = space
st = stitch
RS = right side
WS = wrong side

CHART SYMBOL LEGEND

Oval (o) — chain
Small dot — slip stitch
Short vertical bar — single crochet
Tall vertical bar with a diagonal line — double crochet
Diamond-like shapes made of chains — lace mesh pattern
Antlers — small chains and tiny sc/sl st branches

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION ORDER

1. Crochet the **reindeer head**.

2. Crochet the **antlers** directly from the head.

3. Work the **neck**.

4. Create the **lace mesh body**.

5. Crochet the **legs** from the body downward.

6. Add a single crochet **outline border** around the entire appliqué.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. HEAD (Follow the chart exactly)
1. Begin with a magic ring, or chain 6 and join to form a ring.

2. Round 1: ch 1, work 6–8 sc into the ring (match the chart count).

3. Round 2: Increase as shown in the diagram, usually:
   sc in next st, 2 sc in next st repeated.

4. Work small shaping rows/rounds of sc or hdc to form the reindeer's face, muzzle, and forehead.

5. If the chart indicates an eye hole, skip one stitch to create a tiny opening, or embroider the eye later.

6. Continue shaping until the head outline matches the shape in the chart.

2. ANTLERS (Delicate chain and sc structure)

The chart shows branching antlers created with chains and tiny stitches.

1. Attach yarn to the top of the head if needed.

2. For each antler:

   ○ Work a main stem by chaining 6–10 (or the number shown on the chart).

   ○ Create branches exactly as drawn:
      ch 3, sl st back into the chain
      OR
      ch 2, sc back into the stem

3. Repeat for every branch and knot shown on the chart.

4. Make the second antler in the same way, mirroring the first.

Tip: Keep antler tension firm so the branches hold shape.

3. NECK

1. From the lower head stitches, work a narrow strip (usually 1–3 stitches wide) in sc or hdc.

2. Crochet straight or with slight shaping depending on the chart.

3. Continue until the neck reaches the point where the body mesh begins.

4. BODY MESH (Lattice pattern)

The reindeer's body uses an open lace mesh made of repeated chain spaces and double crochet posts.

Common mesh repeat:
 dc, ch 3, skip 2, dc in next st
 (or ch 2 if chart uses smaller diamonds)

1. Start at the neck/body join.

2. Work the first row following the chart's placement of dc and chain spaces.

3. For each new row, offset the dc stitches so they fall into the chain spaces of the row below.

4. Continue building the diamond mesh exactly as drawn.

5. Shape the outer contour of the reindeer by stopping the mesh where the chart turns into solid stitches.

Tip: Keep your tension firm to maintain body shape.

5. LEGS (Solid stitching)

1. From the lower body, work downward in the exact leg positions shown.

2. Legs are typically 2–4 stitches wide in sc or dc.

3. Follow chart length precisely.

4. If a leg splits into two small columns or bends, replicate that structure exactly.

5. Finish each leg with a sl st and fasten off if needed.

6. OUTLINE BORDER (Final sculpted edge)

1. Reattach yarn anywhere along the edge.

2. Work 1 round of **single crochet** around the entire reindeer.

3. Place 1 sc in each stitch and 1 sc into each chain space.

4. Add 2 sc in tight corners (like between legs).

5. Around antlers, use very small stitches (sl st or tight sc) to maintain delicate shape.

BLOCKING & FINISHING

1. Spray gently with water or lightly steam.

2. Pin into final shape (especially the antlers).

3. Allow to dry fully.

4. Weave in all loose ends neatly.

5. To attach to fabric, whipstitch around the outline only.

BEGINNER TIPS

● Practice the lattice mesh pattern on scrap yarn before starting.

● Use a smaller hook if the holes look too large.

● Check your stitch count frequently, especially in the head and legs.

● Block the appliqué for a clean, professional finish.

FAQ

Q: Can beginners make this?
A: Yes — this tutorial is written for beginners following a chart.

Q: What yarn gives the best stitch definition?
 A: Smooth mercerized cotton.

Q: How can I size it up or down?
 A: Change the hook and yarn thickness.

Q: Is this appliqué flat or 3D?
 A: Completely flat, as the chart indicates.

CONCLUSION

You now have a complete, beginner-friendly guide to crocheting a **reindeer appliqué** exactly like the diagram. The steps follow the chart in the provided photo from top to bottom: head → antlers → neck → lace body → legs → edging.

If you want a **PDF version**, **DOCX**, a **clean printable layout**, or want the instructions rewritten with **exact stitch counts from the chart** (each chain and stitch individually listed), I can prepare that for you—just tell me!