

Horse Crochet Rug – Detailed Beginner Pattern



Materials

- Medium weight cotton yarn (worsted weight recommended) in:
 - Beige (main body)
 - Light brown
 - Dark brown
 - White
 - Black (eye detail)
 - Crochet hook: 3.5 mm (E/4) or size needed for firm fabric
 - Yarn needle
 - Scissors
 - Stitch markers (optional but helpful)
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Abbreviations (US Terms)

- ch – chain
 - sc – single crochet
 - inc – increase (2 sc in same stitch)
 - dec – decrease (single crochet 2 stitches together)
 - sl st – slip stitch
 - st(s) – stitch(es)
 - RS – right side
 - WS – wrong side
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Important Notes for Beginners

- Read the full pattern before starting.
 - The piece is worked **from bottom to top** following the chart.
 - Change colors on the **last yarn over** of the previous stitch.
 - Carry yarn neatly along the back when possible.
 - Keep tension even so the rug stays flat.
 - Turn at the end of each row unless stated otherwise.
 - Stitch count changes only where the chart shows shaping.
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Pattern Instructions



Foundation

With **beige**, ch 61 (or the number indicated by your chart width).

Row 1 (RS):

Starting in the 2nd ch from hook, work 1 sc in each ch across. Turn.

You should have **60 sc**.

Row 2

Ch 1, sc in each st across, changing colors according to the chart. Turn.

✔ Tip for beginners: Always complete the color change in the last yarn over of the previous stitch.

Rows 3–10: Lower Body and Legs

- Continue working in sc following the color blocks.
 - When the chart narrows for the legs, use **dec** where needed.
 - When the chart widens again, use **inc** to return to stitch count.
 - Keep edges straight unless shaping is indicated.
- ♦ Take your time here — this section defines the legs.
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Rows 11–20: Body Section

- Work evenly in single crochet.
- Follow the chart carefully to form:
 - Belly color changes
 - Saddle area
 - Back shaping
- Maintain consistent tension.

At the widest body section, your stitch count should match the chart.

Rows 21–30: Neck Shaping

- Begin gradual decreases where the neck narrows.
- Follow the color changes for the mane area.
- Work slowly to keep the neck smooth.

⚠ Important: Most shaping here happens at row beginnings and ends.

Rows 31–40: Head and Muzzle

- Continue following the chart.
- Use decreases to form the muzzle.
- Maintain firm stitches so the head keeps its shape.
- Fasten off main yarn at the end of the final row.

Eye Embroidery

With **black yarn** and yarn needle:

- Embroider a small eye where indicated on the chart.
- Secure well on the WS.
- Do not pull too tight.

Optional Border (Recommended)

Join **beige** yarn in any corner.

Round 1:

- Work sc evenly around the entire rug.
- Place **3 sc in each corner**.
- Keep stitches relaxed so the rug lays flat.
- Sl st to first sc to finish.

Fasten off and weave in all ends.

Finishing Tips for Best Results

- Lightly steam block to help the rug lay flat.
- Weave in ends on the wrong side following color areas.
- If edges curl, use a slightly larger hook for the border.
- Count stitches every few rows to avoid mistakes.
- Work color changes slowly for a clean picture.

🌟 Beginner Encouragement

If this is your first graph project, don't worry — take it one row at a time. Using stitch markers at key shaping points can help a lot. With patience, your horse rug will come out beautifully!