

# HIGHLAND COW & BULL

## crochet keyring, plant poke, pin, hanging decoration

### MATERIALS

Small amounts of brown, fawn and off white DK yarn  
Scraps of black yarn for embroidery.  
3.5 mm crochet hook  
Large eye sewing needle  
Very small amount of fibrefill or yarn scraps for filling  
Stitch marker

### ABBREVIATIONS

*PATTERN WRITTEN IN UK TERMS (US terms in brackets)*

ch = chain  
dc = double crochet (US = sc)  
tr = treble (US = dc)  
dtr = double treble (US = tr)  
ttr = triple treble (US = dtr)  
slst = slip stitch  
sts = stitches  
MR magic ring (alternative given in instructions)  
FO = fasten off and cut yarn  
rpt = repeat



### INSTRUCTIONS

(PLEASE NOTE: cow/bull back and front are worked separately and then crocheted together in Round 7. Ears are then added in as round 7 is worked.)

### BACK

Round 1: Starting with brown, slip knot, ch 2, 6dc into 2nd ch from hook  
OR MR, 6dc into MR, slst to join. (6sts)  
Rd 2: Ch1, 2dc in each st, slst to join. (12 sts)  
Rd 3: Ch1, (2dc, 1dc) rpt to end, slst to join. (18 sts)  
Rd 4: Ch1, (1dc, 1dc, 2dc) rpt to end, slst to join. (24 sts)  
Rd 5: Ch1, (2dc, 1dc, 1dc, 1dc) rpt to end, slst to join. (30 sts)  
Rd 6: Ch1, (1dc, 1dc, 1dc, 1dc, 2dc) rpt to end, slst to join. (36 sts) FO and cut yarn.

### FRONT

With brown yarn, work Round 1 - 6 as given above for BACK but DO NOT fasten off.

Rd 7: *EARS are worked in this row and front and back pieces are joined together. Place BACK and FRONT pieces wrong sides together. Work with FRONT facing and work through 2 sts each time (one from FRONT and one from BACK):*

All into first st to create RIGHT EAR: (slst, ch3, tr, dtr, 2ttr, dtr, tr, ch3, slst), dc into next 14 sts, all into next st to create LEFT EAR (slst, ch3, tr, dtr, 2ttr, dtr, tr, ch3, slst), dc in remaining sts to end round, slst to join. Before last few joining stitches are made, add a small amount of fibrefill stuffing to create a more 3D effect.

FO and leave a length of brown yarn (for sewing on brooch pin, hanging loop or keyring)  
OR weave in ends if gluing a stick into the cow/bull head to create a plant poke.

### To make fringe for Highland Cow:

Cut 5 pieces of brown yarn 8cm in length.  
Fold one piece in half and fold again into quarters, Hook centre of folded piece and pull through the top centre st of cow face. Pass loop over the ends of the pieces of yarn and pull up to make a larks head knot (see diagram).  
Repeat with other 4 pieces of yarn and knot in the stitches next to the top centre st.  
Cut loops in fringe to give 4 cut ends per knot and trim fringe if needed.

Round 7



## **MUZZLE**

*PLEASE NOTE: Worked continuously rather than joining each round; use stitch marker*

Round 1: Ch6, 2dc into 2nd ch from hook, dc into next 3 sts, 3dc into starting ch, turn and work dc into next 3 sts on other side of chains, dc into end st. (12 sts)

Rd 2: 2dc in same sts, dc in next 5 sts, 2dc into next st, dc in next 5 sts. (14 sts)

Rd 3: Dc in each st. (14 sts). FO but leave length of yarn for sewing muzzle into place.

Using large eye needle and photo as a guide, sew muzzle into place. Add a small amount of fibrefill stuffing before completion to give more 3D effect.

With piece of black yarn and large eye needle, embroider nostrils and eyes as photo.

## **HORNS (make 2)**

Round 1: Starting with off white yarn, slip knot, ch2, 6dc into 2nd ch from hook OR MR, 6dc into MR, slst to join. (6sts)

Round 2: Ch 1, dc in each st round, slst to join. (6 sts)

Repeat row 2 five more times (7 rows in total).

FO leaving length of yarn to sew horn in place. Stuff horn so that stands rigid. Using large eye needle, sew each horn in place near ears, catching stitches on each side at the base of round 7 of back/front of face (see photo) so that horn is held firmly in place.

## **FINISH OFF**

Complete your cow/bull head as desired by using yarn end to sew on a brooch pin or keyring, or to create a hanging loop.

Alternatively, glue the pointed end of a wooden skewer into the base of the cow/bull head to create a plant poke.

Why not make more as gifts or to help fundraise for a charity or special cause?



*This pattern was originally created in 2025 for the Birmingham Hospice 'Bulls in the City' Art Trail. Bull themed crafts were used to fundraise for the hospice and to coincide with the launch of an art trail of large decorated bulls placed around the city: <https://bullsinthecity.co.uk>*



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