CROCHET PATTERN
Shanghai Leopard – Wise Mao

Designer: Alexandra Simba
Online store: https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/CrochetPatternGuru
Any questions please ask via private message in the Etsy shop.

Difficulty level - Experienced. The toy is approx. 28 (L) * 14 (H) cm. Pay attention that your toy can be smaller or bigger depending on the materials you use and your manner to crochet.

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You can exchange, sell, and put on charity auctions toys made using this pattern.

When showing and/or selling toys made using this pattern online, you have to provide the working link to my online store https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/CrochetPatternGuru followed by the phrase: “This toy is made using Alexandra Simba’s (Alexandra Simba) pattern CrochetPatternGuru». Thank you for understanding.



PREFCE.

"You're kidding," said Ellochka tenderly. "It's Mexican jerboa."
"It can't be. They made a mistake. You were given a much better fur. It's Shanghai leopard. Yes, leopard. I recognize it by the shade. You see how it reflects the sun. Just like emerald! Just like emerald!
(The Twelve Chairs. Ilf and Petrov)

This pattern is to continue the series of crocheted illustration. Following Mexican jerboa there appeared Shanghai leopard called Wise Mao ("mao" in Chinese means "cat"). As Chinese people say, a person's main wealth is not money, but their wisdom (as well as their experience and knowledge). Thus, our leopard does not keep gold or diamonds in his coffer, but a book by Confucius.

The head of the leopard is crowned with a traditional Chinese headdress mian (crown) (冕冠 (miǎnguàn), which is known as Chinese tiara that is used to be the ancient emperors' headdress. The suspensions in front and behind of the headdress are called "liu". They are attached to a small plank made of tung tree. This plunk is called "yanban" (salt plate). The tiara used to be made of bamboo fibers and upholstered with black silk. Above the face "yanban" is curved (the circle was to symbolize the sky) and from the back this plunk symbolized the Earth. Thus, there was the harmony of the Sky and the Earth supported by the Emperor's head. There are exactly 12 suspensions. This number is tied up to the calendar system, 12 moon months and 12 sun months, 12 Earth branches, as well as with 12 Zodiac signs.



YOU WILL NEED

These materials are necessary:

- Hairy yarn. I used Kamteks Khlopok Travka (65% cotton, 35% polyamide, 220 m/100 g). Main color (08 silver) - 2 skeins. Half a skein of white yarn to make the white breast and neck. You can use Nako Paris yarn (40% acrylic, 60% polyamide; 245 m/100 g) or any other similar yarn or any mohair yarn (If you use mohair yarn, you will have to trim your toy after brushing it).





- Copper wire to reinforce the legs and tail. (This is necessary. Otherwise the legs will be curved and the tail will go up) - 1.5 mm cooper wire - approx. 3.5 m. *You can buy this wire in a craft shop, but I suggest buying it in an electronic goods store. There you can buy a 3*1.5 cord. Before buying the cord, make sure that the wire inside it is whole and does not consist of several thin wires. With a paper knife, remove the insulation.*

- Stuffing polyester.

- White fabric plaster or insulation tape.

- Toy eyes / semi beads (plastic or glass). The size of the eyes is 12 mm (depends on the size of your toy). I recommend looking at photos of different leopards. The eyes of real leopards differ from gray ones to gray-brown ones. But I used blue toy eyes ☺

- Transparent glue (if you want to glue the eyes on instead of sewing them on). Make sure the glue doesn't destroy the plastic. Or sewing thread to match eyes color if you want to sew the eyes on.

- Strong thread to do sculpting. I use Vita Pelican yarn - I like this yarn because it is strong enough, doesn't damage the fabric. Some crocheters like using dental floss or thick nylon thread.

- Plastic clay of wine red color or color of breaks to make the nose or you can use a toy nose or you can felt it.

- 0.6-1 mm permanent marker or a ballpoint pen of black color to tint the eyes, nose and mouth.

- Fishing line to make whiskers.

- **Dry** pastel paints of the following colors:
Dark-brown and black.

- Hard synthetic brushes No 5 (or No 4) and No 9 (or No 8, or No 10). I use the brushes from this set:

https://ru.aliexpress.com/item/32833928041.html?spm=a2g0s.9042311.0.0.274233edsBFhJn



Optional materials:

- **To make emperor's tiara:** you can use any smooth cotton yarn. I uses Vita Coco (100% mercerized cotton, 240 m / 50 g): red, yellow and black. You will need just leftovers of each color.
- Golden chain – 0.5 m.
- 24 golden split rings
- 12 golden bells
- 0.5-1.0 mm wire to reinforce the tiara.

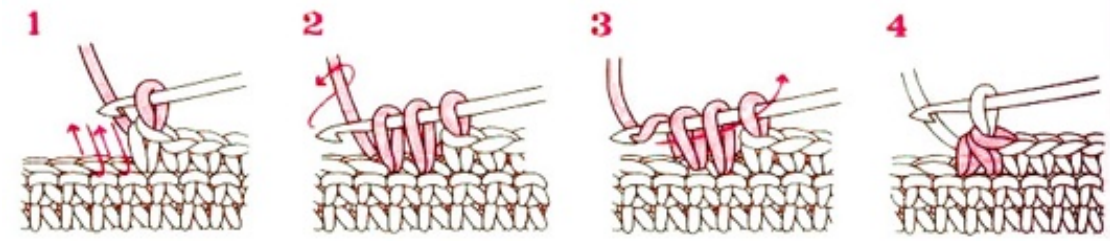
Tools:

- 1.75 mm crochet hook to make the leopard. Note: choose the crochet hook size according to your yarn.
- 1.25 mm crochet hook to make the tiara. Note: choose the crochet hook size according to your yarn.
- Wire cutter.
- Needle-nose pliers and flat-nose pliers to work with split rings.
- Scissors.
- Hard synthetic paint brush to tint the toy (see above).

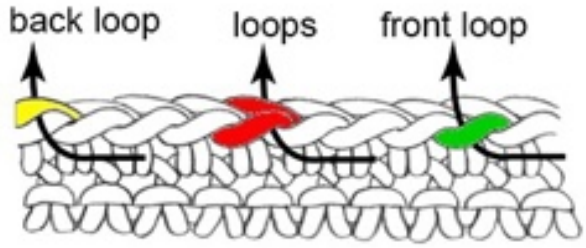
Abbreviations

ch – chain
dec – 2 sc tog

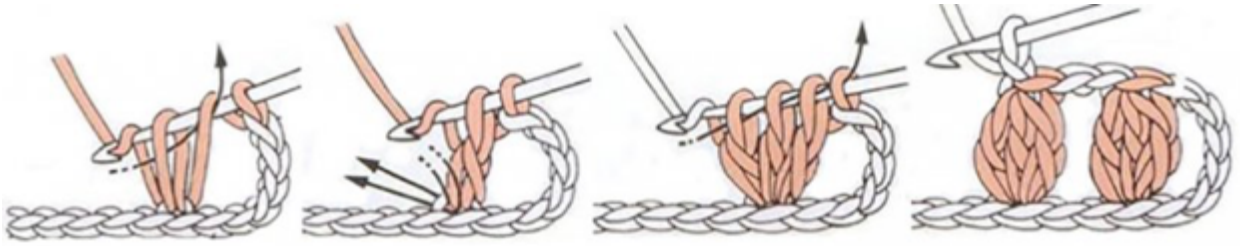
Attention! In order to get thick even fabric without holes make decreases as it is shown in pictures below (and do not just skip on stitch!). If it is not states the other, **<u>if it is not stated otherwise.</u>**



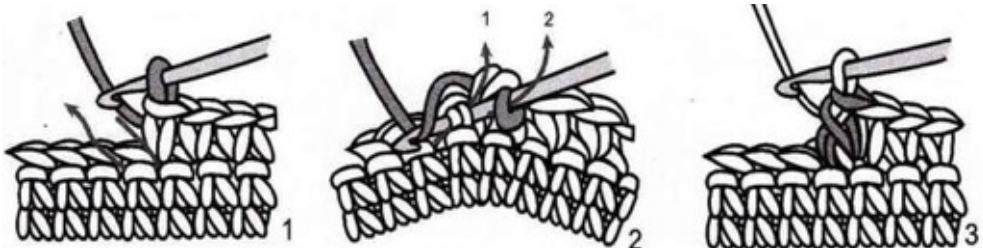
shift st - shift stitch – an additional sc in next st and only after that change the position of the marker
ss – slip st
FO – fasten off, weave in the end
sc – single crochet
sc blo – single crochet through back loop only
sc flo – single crochet through front loop only



incr – increase: 2 sc in one st
4-dc cluster – 4 dc in next st closed tog



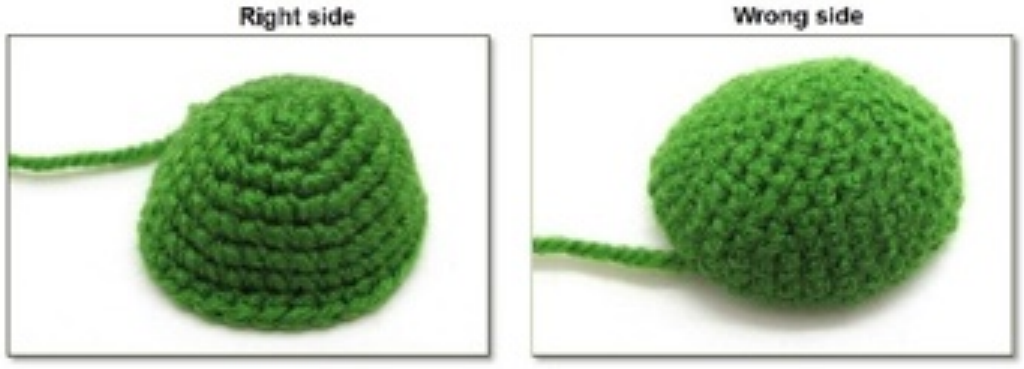
3 sc tog - 3 sc together
3-sc incr – 3 sc in next st
4 sc tog - 4 sc together
4-sc incr – 4 sc in next st
fsc – front single crochet



st(s) – stitch(es)
tog – together
MR – magic ring

Attention! In order to avoid injuries, it is necessary to wrap the wire ends with plaster and bend the wire into a ring. Be careful when working with wire.

Attention! The toy is made with RS facing you.



Front legs

Work in continuous spiral. Marker goes along the central line of the back of the leg. **Shift the position of marker when necessary.** Do not stuff the legs at this stage.

Feet.

Both feet are made in the same way up to Rnd 26, except for Rnds 13-15.

1) make a MR, 6 sc into ring (6)
2) 2 sc in each st around (12)
3) (sc, 2 sc in next st)*6 (18)
4) (sc, 2 sc in next st, sc)*6 (24)
5) (3 sc, 2 sc in next st)*6 (30)
6) 10 sc, (4-sc cluster, 2 sc)*3, 4-sc cluster, 10 sc (30)
7) sc in each st around (30)
8) sc, 2 sc in next st, 26 sc, 2 sc in next st, sc (32)
9) 2 sc, 2 sc in next st, 8 sc, (2 sc tog, sc)*3, 2 sc tog, 7 sc, 2 sc in next st, 2 sc (30)
10) 11 sc, (2 sc tog)*4, 11 sc (26)
11) 9 sc, (2 sc tog)*4, 9 sc (22)
12) sc in each st around (22), shift st
13-left foot) 19 sc, (3 sc in next st)*2, sc (26)
13-right foot) sc, (3 sc in next st)*2, 19 sc (26)
14-left foot) 10 sc, 2 sc in next st, 15 sc (27)
14-right foot) 15 sc, 2 sc in next st, 10 sc (27)
15-left foot) 20 sc, (3 sc tog)*2, sc (23)
15-right foot) sc, (3 sc tog)*2, 20 sc (23)

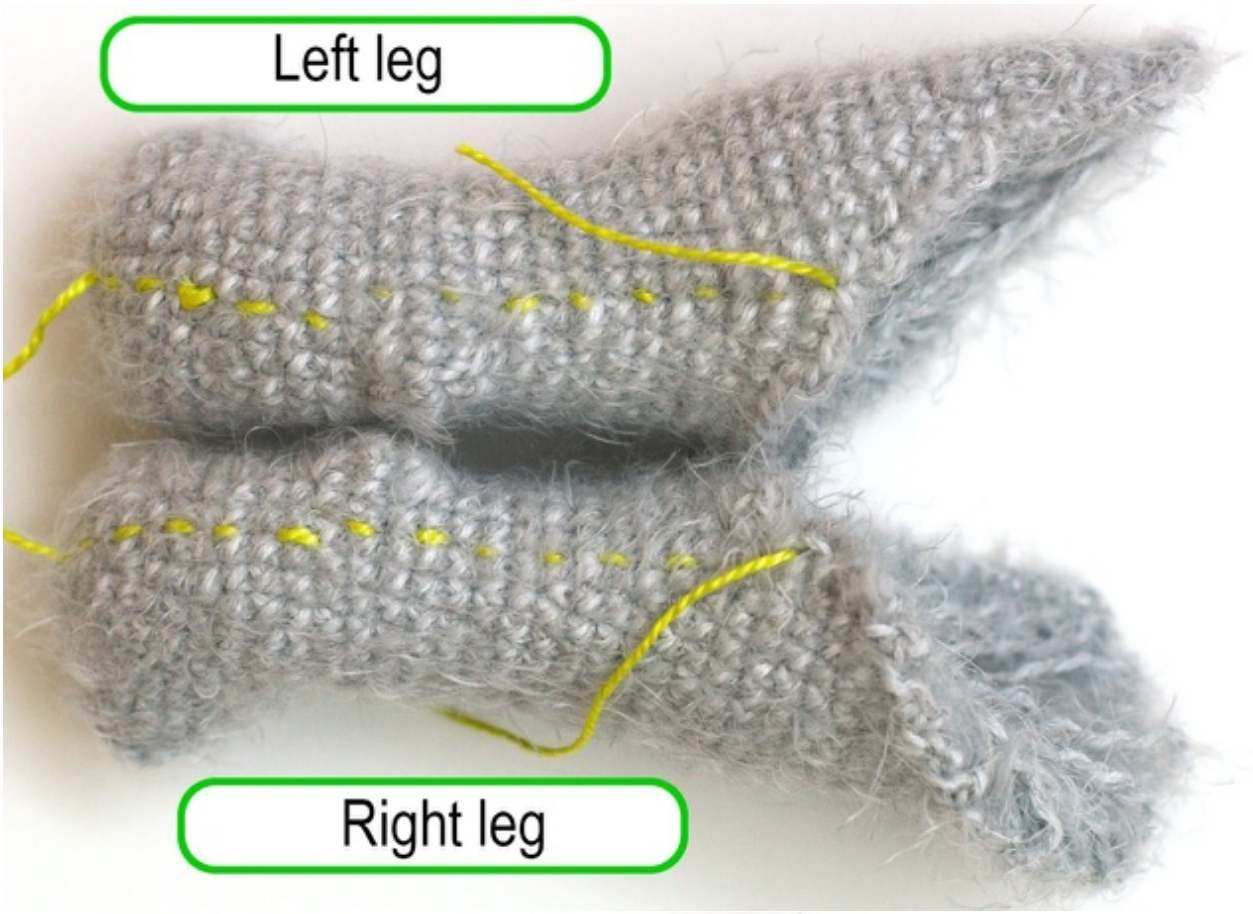


Thus, we have made the fifth toe.
16) sc in each st around (23)
17) 22 sc, 2 sc in next st (24)
18) sc in each st around (24)
19) 23 sc, 2 sc in next st (25)
20) sc in each st around (25)
21) 12 sc, 2 sc in next st, 12 sc (26)
22) 25 sc, 2 sc in next st (27)
23) (4 sc, 2 sc in next st, 4 sc)*3 (30)
24) (9 sc, 2 sc in next st)*3 (33)
25) 2 sc in next st, 9 sc, 2 sc in next st, (10 sc, 2 sc in next st)*2 (37)

Continue making the round part of the leg with breaking yarn where indicated. When breaking yarn, do not forget to leave 3-4-cm long tails inside the leg to prevent the fabric from unravelling. After breaking yarn, start work with sc, not with ss. In order to make a sc as tall as necessary, first make a ch in the indicated st and then make a sc in the same st. This step is not stated in the instructions, so do not forget to make a ch at the beginning of row.

Left leg.
26) 26 sc, FO. Skip 8 sts, sc in next st, sc, 2 sc in next st (38). DO NOT break yarn!
27) 25 sc, FO. Skip 12 sts (including 8 skipped sts in the previous row), sc in next st (38). DO NOT break yarn!
28) 24 sc (24). FO. Do not track the position of marker.
29) sc in first st of the previous row, 18 sc, 2 sc in next st, 4 sc (25). FO
30) starting from 2nd st of the previous row: 2 sc tog, 21 sc (22). FO
31) starting from 1st st of the previous row: 2 sc tog, 20 sc (21). FO
32) sc in 1st st of the previous row, 19 sc (20). FO
33) starting from 1st st of the previous row: 2 sc tog, 18 sc (19). FO
34) sc in 2nd st of the previous row, 16 sc (17). FO
35) sc in 1st of the previous row, 16 sc (17). FO
36) starting from 1st st of the previous row: 2 sc tog, 15 sc (16). FO
37) starting from 1st st of the previous row: 2 sc tog, 12 sc, 2 sc tog (14). FO
38) sc in 1st st of the previous row, 13 sc (14). FO
39) starting from 1st st of the previous row: 2 sc tog, 10 sc, 2 sc tog (12). FO
40) starting from 1st st of the previous row: 2 sc tog, 10 sc (11). FO
41) sc in 3rd st of the previous row, 6 sc (7). FO

In the photo below, you can see left and right legs.


Left leg
Right leg


Right leg
Left leg



Make a rnd of sc around the cap of the leg. Start and finish the rnd at the inner part of the leg. You can see how to join the rnd accurately in this video tutorial:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=570YL2R0PNg

If you like this pattern and want to finish the project, find full version of the pattern in one of my shops.

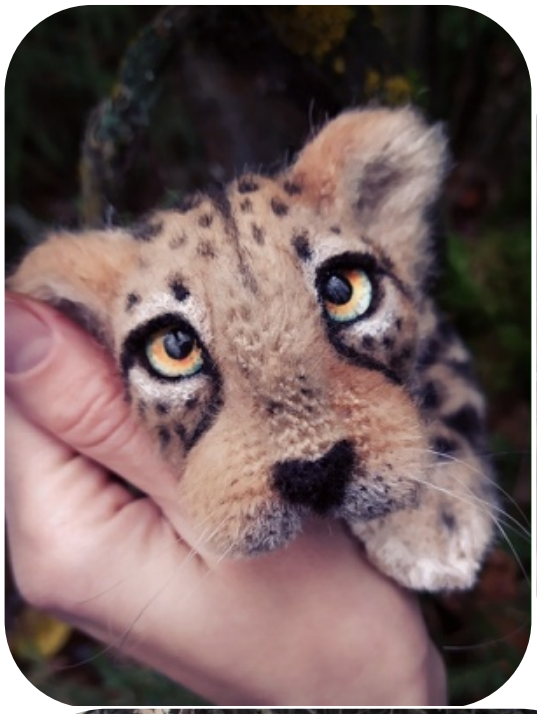
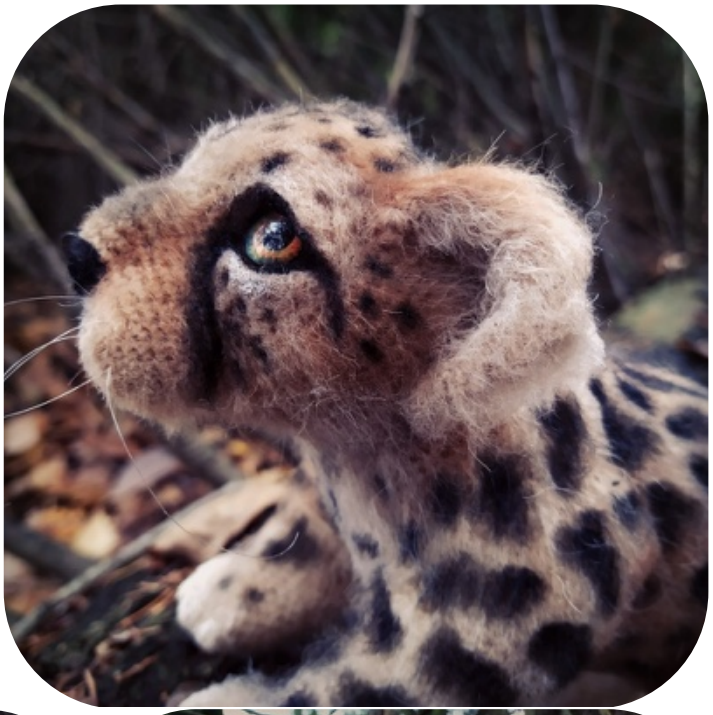
Shop on Etsy –
http://bit.ly/EtsyCPG

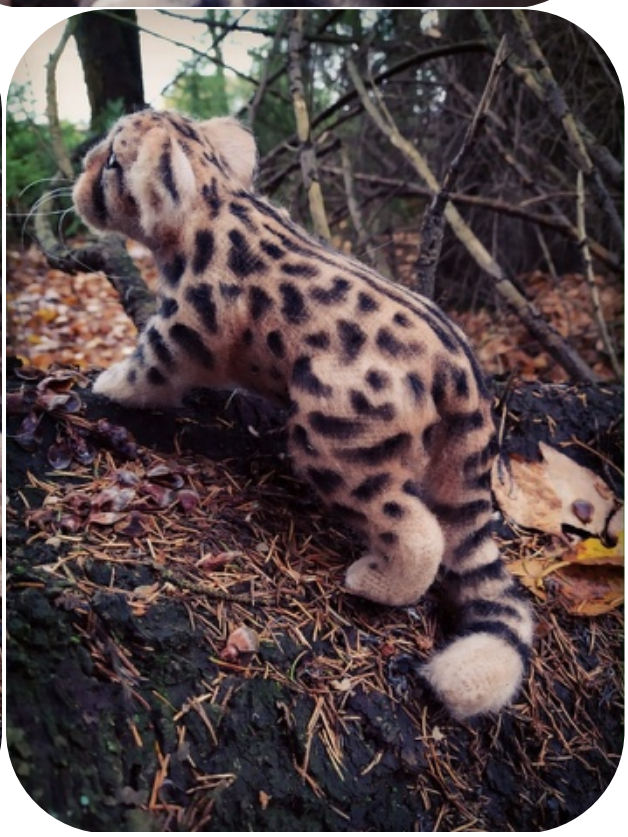
Shop on Ravelry
http://bit.ly/RavelryCPG

Results of the pattern testing.

I would say many great thanks to my helpers who helped me prepare the pattern for online crocheting and who made their cute toys. It is simply a mystery how these toys look natural and alive. It was impossible for me to choose only 2 or 4 photos of each toy as I love all of them.

The cute leopard by **Maria Vassilievykh** was born first. It is 13*28 cm. It is made of Nako Angora De Luxe yarn, with 0.6 mm crochet hook. The tinting is done with acrylic paints. Eyes are made with glass cabochons.



Tender leopard called Samira by **Natalia Roshchina (Навла)**. It is made of Alize Angora Real 40 yarn together with Alize Kid Royal (light-blue) and Alize Angora Real 40 together with Sable (Chinese stock yarn) (white), with 1.5 mm crochet hook. For wire frame, Natalia used 2.5 mm wire. The tinting is done with oil paints and fabric marker. Eyes are 12 mm. The toy is 28 cm (without the tail) and 17 cm tall (with ears).







An incredible leopard by **Ekaterina Vinogradova**. It is 14 cm tall and 23 cm long (from the tip of the nose to the back leg) and 38 cm to the end of the tail. Gray yarn: Tender Mohair by Nazar (white) + Alize Kid Mohair (gray). White yarn: Tender Mohair by Nazar (white) + Alize Kid Mohair (white). Ekaterina used 2 balls of Tender Mohair by Nazar yarn. Tinting is done with oil paints, pastel paints and a permanent marker.





A queenly lynx by **Svetlana Tabunschikova**. The toy is quite big – it is 26 cm long (from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail) and 23 tall (with ears). The eyes are drown by hand. The toy is tinted with oil paints. It is simply brilliant at hunting hedgehogs! Yarn: Alize Real 40 + Alize Kid Mohair.







This snow leopard by **Elena Arikhina** has come to our world from snowy slopes. It is made of Italian kid mohair + Alize Kid Mohair with 1.25 mm Clover crochet hook. The toy is approx. 15*23 cm, if with the tail it is 37 cm long. The eyes are made with 10 mm cabochons. The nose is made of plastic clay.







Modification of ears and tutorial on how to make a nose of plastic clay by Svetlana Tabunshchikova.

Modelling nose.

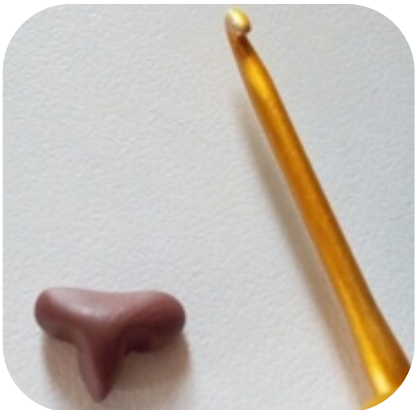
To make a nose for the wild cat, take a small piece of plastic clay. Warm the clay in hands and make a small ball. Make a triangle and flatten it a bit.



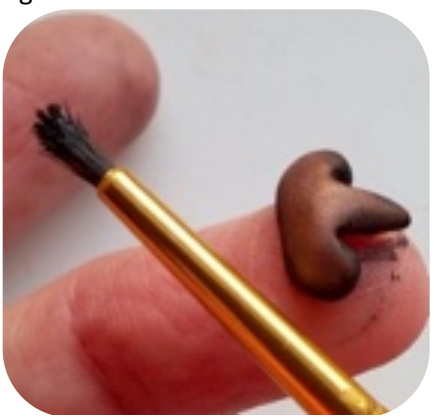


With your fingers, make the nose look more natural – make the lower part a bit slimmer and smooth the upper corners. You can stop at this stage. Svetlana makes most noses for her toys in this way. But, if you want, you can continue modelling the nose. It is not necessary to use special tools to work with plastic clay. You can use a crochet hook of big size. With the crochet hook, make nose cavities. Continue modelling until you have the nose you like.





Try the nose on the toy. Take a brush, dip it into water and then into dry black pastel paint. With brush dipped into black pastel paint, trace the contour of the nose. Wipe extra paint with a wet wipe. Then bake the nose. You can also boil small part or bake then over a gas cooker. Be careful when working with open fire. Do not keep it too long over the fire.


Glue the nose on the muzzle using transparent glue.



Lynx's ears.

Work with main color yarn. **Track the position of marker shift it whenever it is necessary – it should go along ridge of ear.**





1) make a MR, 6 sc into ring (6)
2) sc in each st around (6)
3) (sc, 2 sc in next st)*3 (9)
4) (2 sc, 2 sc in next st)*3 (12)
5) (2 sc, 2 sc in next st)*4 (16)
6) ((3 sc in next st), 7 sc)*2 (20)
7) ((3 sc in next st), 9 sc)*2 (24)
8) 2 sc in next st, 10 sc, (2 sc in next st)*2, 10 sc, 2 sc in next st (28)
9) 2 sc in next st, 12 sc, (2 sc in next st)*2, 12 sc, 2 sc in next st (32)
10) 2 sc in next st, 14 sc, (2 sc in next st)*2, 14 sc, 2 sc in next st (36)
11) 2 sc in next st, 16 sc, (2 sc in next st)*2, 16 sc, 2 sc in next st (40). FO

Fix a bit felt wool at the top of the ear to make a tassel.

Collect them all
Find my patterns on Etsy or Ravelry

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