

Ladybug Cuff Bracelet



With its removable ladybug toy, this cute accessory makes a high fashion gift for even the most fidgety little one!



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Ladybug Cuff Bracelet

This cute bracelet would make the perfect gift for any girl -- toddler to 'tween and beyond. The ladybug is removable and makes a cute carry-along playmate or make the ladybug alone and use it as a back pack decoration. The possibilities are endless!

MATERIALS

- Small amounts of red and black worsted weight weight yarn, or desired colors (see pattern notes for specific yarns used)
- Two buttons (one shirt-button sized and another about the size of a dime)
- Hand quilting thread
- Size E (3.5 mm) crochet hook
- Yarn needle
- Sewing needle
- Stitch marker

STITCHES AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS PATTERN:

| | |
|------|----------------|
| CH | chain stitch |
| SC | single crochet |
| DECR | decrease |
| ST | stitch |
| STS | stitches |
| MM | move marker |
| FO | finish off |

For the project shown in the photographs, I used Red Heart Classic yarn in red and black.

Note: When determining whether to use buttons or other small embellishments, keep in mind the age of the intended recipient. Doll eyes and other decorations may pose a choking hazard for children under three. A safer alternative for the very young is to sew eyes and any other decorations using embroidery thread or yarn.

For additional ideas on this project, see **Part 7: Finishing for Children Under Three.**

PART 1: SPOTS (MAKE 2)

The ladybug's spots are two small circles made from a single round of stitches in black yarn.

Round 1: CH 2. 2 SC in second chain from hook. Join ring with SL and FO, leaving a tail for sewing.



Figure 1: Spots

PART 2: BODY

The ladybug's body is very tightly crocheted in order to keep the proportions small. As you can see from Figure 2, the first three rounds are only slightly larger than a quarter.

Round 1: CH 2. 6 SC in second chain from hook. Place stitch marker in the last SC to mark the end of the round.

Round 2: 2 SC in each ST around (12 SC). MM.

Round 3: *2 SC in first SC, 1 SC in next. Repeat from * around (18 SC). MM.

Round 4: *2 SC in first SC, 1 SC in each of next two STS. Repeat from * around (24 SC). MM.

Rounds 5-6: SC in each ST around (24 SC). MM.

Note: Stop here and sew the spots onto your ladybug using the tapestry needle. You should space them roughly the same distance from the center of the piece.

Round 7: *DECR across two STS, SC in each of the next two STS. Repeat from * around (18 SC). MM.

Round 8: *DECR across two STS, SC in next. Repeat from * around (12 SC). MM.

Round 9: *DECR across two STS. Repeat from * around (6 SC). FO, leaving tail.



Figure 2: Body size

FINISHING THE BODY

1. Using the tapestry needle, gather the remaining six stitches on the back of the ladybug's body and pull tight.
2. Push the needle through the center of the piece until it pokes out on the top side.

3. Pull the needle all the way through and pass it back through to the back side of the piece (see Figure 3).
4. Make a loop on the back of the piece only slightly larger than the button you will use to attach it to the cuff bracelet (see Figure 4).

Note: If you are making the cuff bracelet for someone under the age of three, skip step number three above and see **Part 7: Finishing for Children Under Three**.



Figure 3: Sewing body



Figure 4: Button loop

PART 4: HEAD

Round 1: CH 4. Work 2 SC in the second CH from hook, 1 SC in next, and 4 SC STS in the last ST. Rotate your work 180 degrees. Working in the back loops now, make 1 SC in the next stitch and 2 SC STS in the last ST (10 SC). Place stitch marker in the last SC to mark the end of the round.

Rounds 2-3: SC in each stitch around (10 SC). MM.

Note: Finish off after round three, leaving a tail for sewing.



Figure 5: Head

HEAD FINISHING

1. Using the tail left over from the head and a tapestry needle, attach the head to the body.
2. If desired, use the remaining length of tail to add antennae to your ladybug (see second image below). Make sure to knot the ends of the antennae to ensure that they do not slip through the head.

PART 5: CUFF

Before beginning this step, get a general wrist measurement for the person who will wear the cuff bracelet. To do this, wrap a piece of yarn around her wrist and use it as a guideline.

Note: If you are making the cuff bracelet for someone under three, leave a little extra room to slide the bracelet over the wearer's hand. Typically one or two rows will work if you are using a stretchable acrylic yarn. See **Part 7: Finishing for Children Under Three** for more details.



Figure 6: Cuff

Row 1: CH 6 and turn. SC in the second stitch from hook and in each across (5 SC).

Row 2: SC in each stitch across. CH 1 and turn (5 SC).

Note: Repeat row two until you reach the desired length for your bracelet. Finish off and weave in ends.

FINISHING THE CUFF

1. Join the red yarn at one corner of the cuff bracelet and single crochet evenly across one of the long sides of the bracelet.
2. Work 2 SC in the corner, rotate 90 degrees, and work 1 SC in the next ST. CH 3 (or more, depending on the size of the button you will be using to close the cuff), SC in the next ST, and work 2 SC STS in the corner. Rotate 90 degrees. SC evenly across to the end of the other long side evenly and finish off. Weave in ends.

Note: If you are making the cuff bracelet for a child under the age of three, omit the chain stitches on the short end of the bracelet and instead SC across evenly. See **Part 7: Finishing for Children Under Three** for more details.



Figure 7: Button loop

PART 6: ATTACH BUTTONS

Note: Skip this step if you are making the cuff bracelet for a child under the age of three. See **Part 7: Finishing for Children Under Three** for more details.

1. Using needle and thread, attach the larger button near the center of the cuff bracelet (as shown in Figure 8).
2. Attach the smaller button nearer to the end of the cuff bracelet.



Figure 8: Button placement

PART 7: FINISHING FOR CHILDREN UNDER THREE

Instead of using buttons to make the ladybug removable, sew the ladybug body directly to the end of the cuff bracelet (see Figure 9). Then, wrap the bracelet around to make a loop and stitch the two ends together.

Tip: You can also use hook and loop tape to secure the end of the bracelet to make it easier to get on and off.

Your toddler may not be able to slide the bracelet on and off by herself, but my two-year-old still had a lot of fun fidgeting with it!



Figure 9: Toddler-proof closure