

Thomas the Tiger

Height: 13.5" standing

Skill Level: Intermediate

Ravelry: Thomas the Tiger



Thomas the Tiger can't change his stripes, but we'd never want him to because they present a fun colorwork challenge!

Supplies

- 3.5mm (E) hook
- 15mm safety eyes (buy here)
- Yarn needle
- Fiber fill
- Stitch markers (see notes at bottom of pattern)

Yarn (acrylic, weight 4)

- Cream (I used RHSS – Aran)
- Orange (I used RHSS – Carrot)
- Brown (I used RHSS – Coffee)

Notes

Abbreviations

ch: chain

sc: single crochet

inc: 2sc increase

dec: invisible decrease

slst: slip stitch

O: Switch to orange yarn (tutorial)

B: Switch to brown yarn (tutorial)

BLO: back loop only

Attaching with thread vs. yarn tail

For a cleaner look, I opted to cut a short tail, weave it in, and attach a few of the pieces with matching thread. I did this with the snout and belly. However, it's totally up to you and will look cute either way!

Optional: Skip arm & leg pads

Instead of attaching separate arm and leg pads, you can simply start with cream yarn for rounds 1 - 3 on the arms, and rounds 1 - 4 on the legs, then switch to orange/brown yarn for the remaining rounds. I prefer the look of the separate pads, but skipping them is definitely easier. :)

Regarding stitch markers

Note: The photos above show a fox, but the technique is the same for all of my patterns.

The pattern indicates to insert 4 different stitch markers in various places besides the one you use to track the beginning/end of each round.

I recommend using strands of yarn in 3 different colors as your stitch markers: Two strands in color 1 (blue) to mark where you will place each eye, Two strands color 2 (pink) to mark where you will start attaching each ear, and one long strand in color 3 (green) to track the beginning/end of each round.

The photos above demonstrate how to mark a stitch while crocheting a round: lay your strand of yarn acting as a marker over your working yarn and the stitch you'll be working into, then complete the stitch as normal.

You'll essentially be weaving the long strand in color 3 through your work with each round. On odd rounds you'll be laying the strand back-to-front, and on even rounds you'll be laying the strand front-to-back.

The advantage of using this technique is you'll have the beginning of every single round marked, which makes it much easier to find your place if you make a mistake. That said, It's perfectly fine to use a regular ol' safety pin-like marker to keep track of your rounds instead. :)

How to indent the eyes

Note: The video above shows a unicorn, but the technique is the same for all of my patterns.

Step 1 – Cut a strand of yarn approximately 18" long. Tie a large, secure knot in one end and thread the other end through your yarn needle.

Step 2 – Insert your needle through the back opening of the head and sew between the two spots where you'll be placing your safety eyes (marked with your color 1 stitch markers).

Step 3 – Pull your strand of yarn taut, which will create indents.

Step 4 – Fasten off with a knot and hide your yarn tail inside the head.

Instructions

Be sure to read the "notes" section before proceeding.

Snout

With cream yarn:

01. Chain 5 start: ch5, inc in 2nd ch from hook, sc 2, 5sc in the last ch. Continue on the other side of the chain base, sc 2, 3sc in the last ch [14]
02. inc, sc 4, *inc* 3 times, sc 4, *inc* 2 times [20]
03. inc, sc 6, *inc* 2 times, sc, inc, sc 6, *inc* 2 times, sc [26]
04. inc, sc 8, *inc, sc* 2 times, inc, sc 8, *inc, sc* 2 times [32]
05. inc, sc 10, inc, sc 2, inc, sc, inc, sc 10, inc, sc 2, inc, sc [38]
- 06 - 07. sc in each st around [38]
08. sc in each st around, dec last 3 st together [36]

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.

Nose

With brown yarn:

01. start 6 sc into a magic ring [6]
02. *sc, inc* [9]
03. *sc 2, inc* [12]
04. *sc 3, inc* [15]
05. *sc 4, inc* [18]

Switch to orange yarn (tutorial):

- 06 - 10. sc in each st around [18]

Now sc 5 additional stitches. Consider this the official end of round 10. This ensures the jog from our color change will be on the back of the work and won't show.

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing. Fold the top opening in half and slip stitch closed.

Head

With orange yarn:

01. start 6 sc into a magic ring [6]
02. inc in each st around [12]
03. *sc, inc* [18]
04. sc, inc, *sc 2, inc* 5 times, sc [24]
05. *sc 3, inc* [30]
06. sc 2, inc, *sc 4, inc* 5 times, sc 2 [36]
07. *sc 5, inc* [42]
08. sc 3, inc, *sc 6, inc* 5 times, sc 3 [48]

Round 9 is where you start switching colors. For rounds 9 - 18, I find it easiest to cut the yarn each time you change colors, and tie the ends together in a knot to secure.

Only switch colors when indicated with a B (switch to brown) or O (switch to orange). Continue the next round with the color you ended the previous round with unless otherwise indicated.

09. *sc 7, inc* 4 times, sc 5, insert marker color 1 into next sc (42nd st from start of round), sc 1, inc, sc 4, B: sc 3, inc [54]
10. sc 4, inc, O: sc 7, insert marker color 1 into next sc (14th st from start of round), inc, *sc 8, inc* 4 times, sc 4 [60]
11. sc in each st around [60]
12. sc 39, B: sc 12, O: sc 3, B: sc 6 [60]
13. sc 7, O: 3, B: 12, O: 38 [60]
14. sc in each st around [60]
15. sc 37, B: sc 7, O: sc 2, B: sc 8, O: sc 3, B: sc 3 [60]
16. sc 6, O: sc 3, B: sc 8, O: sc 2, B: sc 7, O: sc 34 [60]
17. sc 50, insert marker color 2 into the next sc, sc 9 [60]
18. sc 9, insert marker color 2 into the next sc, sc 50 [60]

Complete the remaining rounds using Planet June's no-cut join method:

19. B: sc in each st around [60]
20. O: sc in each st around [60]
21. sc 4, dec, *sc 8, dec* 5 times, sc 4 [54]
22. B: *sc 7, dec* [48]
23. O: sc 3, dec, *sc 6, dec* 5 times, sc 3 [42]
24. *sc 5, dec* [36]
25. B: sc 2, dec, *sc 4, dec* 5 times, sc 2 [30]

The starting magic ring will be in the middle of the tiger's face, and the markers in rounds 9 and 10 are where you will place the eyes in a later step.

Attach the snout to the head. Stuff the snout when attached $\frac{3}{4}$ around, then finish attaching. Attach the nose over the snout.

Stuff head $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Next, create the indents for the eyes (see instructions at the bottom of the pattern). Insert eyes and secure backings.

26. O: *sc 3, dec* [24]
27. sc, dec, *sc 2, dec* 5 times, sc [18]
28. B: *sc, dec* [12]

Snip and secure the end of the brown yarn. Finish stuffing.

29. O: *dec* [6]

Cut working yarn and close with an ultimate finish.

Ears (make 2)

01. start 6 sc into a magic ring [6]
02. inc in each st around [12]
03. *sc, inc* 2 times, B: *sc, inc* 4 times [18]
04. sc, O: inc, *sc 2, inc* 5 times, sc [24]
05. *sc 3, inc* [30]
06. sc 9, B: sc 21 [30]
07. sc 3, O: dec, *sc 3, dec* 5 times [24]

Cut brown yarn and secure the end.

08. sc, dec, *sc 2, dec* 5 times, sc [18]
09. *sc, dec* [12]

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing. Fold the top opening in half and slip stitch closed. Attach each ear starting in your marked stitches, and each of the next 4 stitches on both sides.

Body

With orange yarn:

01. start 6 sc into a magic ring [6]
02. inc in each st around [12]

Switch to brown yarn:

03. *sc, inc* [18]

Switch to orange yarn:

04. sc, inc, *sc 2, inc* 5 times, sc [24]
05. *sc 3, inc* [30]

Switch to brown yarn:

06. sc 2, inc, *sc 4, inc* 5 times, sc 2 [36]

Switch to orange yarn:

07. *sc 5, inc* [42]
08. sc 3, inc, *sc 6, inc* 5 times, sc 3 [48]

Switch to brown yarn:

09. *sc 7, inc* [54]

Switch to orange yarn:

10. sc 4, inc, *sc 8, inc* 5 times, sc 4 [60]
11. sc in each st around [60]

Switch to brown yarn:

12. sc in each st around [60]

Switch to orange yarn:

13 - 14. sc in each st around [60]

Switch to brown yarn:

15. sc in each st around [60]

Switch to orange yarn:

16 - 17. sc in each st around [60]

Switch to brown yarn:

18. sc 4, dec, *sc 8, dec* 5 times, sc 4 [54]

Switch to orange yarn:

19. sc in each st around [54]

20. *sc 7, dec* [48]

Switch to brown yarn:

21. sc in each st around [48]

Switch to orange yarn:

22. sc 3, dec, *sc 6, dec* 5 times, sc 3 [42]

23. sc in each st around [42]

Switch to brown yarn:

24. sc in each st around [42]

Switch to orange yarn:

25. *sc 5, dec* [36]

26. sc in each st around [36]

Switch to brown yarn:

27. sc in each st around [36]

Switch to orange yarn:

28. sc 2, dec, *sc 4, dec* 5 times, sc 2 [30]

29. sc in each st around [30]

Switch to brown yarn:

30. sc in each st around [30]

Switch to orange yarn:

31. *sc 3, dec* [24]

32. sc in each st around [24]

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing. Stuff firmly with fiber fill.

Belly*With cream yarn:*

01. Chain 5 start: ch5, inc in 2nd ch from hook, sc 2, 5sc in the last ch. Continue on the other side of the chain base, sc 2, 3sc in the last ch [14]
02. inc, sc 4, *inc* 3 times, sc 4, *inc* 2 times [20]
03. inc, sc 6, *inc* 2 times, sc, inc, sc 6, *inc* 2 times, sc [26]
04. inc, sc 8, *inc, sc* 2 times, inc, sc 8, *inc, sc* 2 times [32]
05. inc, sc 10, inc, sc 2, inc, sc, inc, sc 10, inc, sc 2, inc, sc [38]
06. inc, sc 12, *inc, sc 2* 2 times, inc, sc 12, *inc, sc 2* 2 times [44]
07. inc, sc 14, inc, sc 3, inc, sc 2, inc, sc 14, inc, sc 3, inc, sc 2 [50]

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.

Arms (make 2)*With orange yarn:*

01. start 6 sc into a magic ring [6]
02. inc in each st around [12]
03. *sc, inc* [18]
04. sc, inc, *sc 2, inc* 5 times, sc [24]
05. BLO: sc in each st around [24]
06. sc in each st around [24]

Switch to brown yarn:

07. sc in each st around [24]

Switch to orange yarn:

08. sc in each st around [24]
09. sc 11, dec, sc 11 [23]

Switch to brown yarn:

10. sc in each st around [23]

Switch to orange yarn:

11. sc 21, dec [22]
12. sc in each st around [22]

Switch to brown yarn:

13. sc 10, dec, sc 10 [21]

Switch to orange yarn:

14. sc in each st around [21]
15. sc 19, dec [20]

Switch to brown yarn:

16. sc in each st around [20]

Switch to orange yarn:

17. sc 9, dec, sc 9 [19]

18. sc in each st around [19]

Switch to brown yarn:

19. sc 17, dec [18]

Switch to orange yarn:

20. sc in each st around [18]

21. sc 8, dec, sc 8 [17]

Switch to brown yarn:

22. sc in each st around [17]

Switch to orange yarn:

23. sc 15, dec [16]

24. sc in each st around [16]

Switch to brown yarn:

25. sc in each st around [16]

Switch to orange yarn:

26. *sc 2, dec* [12]

27. sc in each st around [12]

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing. Stuff firmly with fiber fill. Fold the top opening in half and slip stitch closed.

Arm Pads (make 2)

With cream yarn:

01. start 6 sc into a magic ring [6]

02. inc in each st around [12]

03. *sc, inc* [18]

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.

Legs (make 2)

With orange yarn:

01. start 6 sc into a magic ring [6]

02. inc in each st around [12]

03. *sc, inc* [18]
04. sc, inc, *sc 2, inc* 5 times, sc [24]
05. *sc 3, inc* [30]
06. BLO: sc in each st around [30]
07. sc in each st around [30]

Switch to brown yarn:

08. sc in each st around [30]

Switch to orange yarn:

09. sc in each st around [30]
10. sc 14, dec, sc 14 [29]

Switch to brown yarn:

11. sc 27, dec [28]

Switch to orange yarn:

12. sc 13, dec, sc 13 [27]
13. sc 25, dec [26]

Switch to brown yarn:

14. sc 12, dec, sc 12 [25]

Switch to orange yarn:

15. sc 23, dec [24]
16. sc 11, dec, sc 11 [23]

Switch to brown yarn:

17. sc 21, dec [22]

Switch to orange yarn:

18. sc 10, dec, sc 10 [21]
19. sc 19, dec [20]

Switch to brown yarn:

20. sc 9, dec, sc 9 [19]

Switch to orange yarn:

21. sc 17, dec [18]
22. *sc 7, dec* [16]
23. *sc 2, dec* [12]

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing. Stuff firmly with fiber fill. Fold the top opening in half and slip stitch closed.

Leg Pads (make 2)

With cream yarn:

01. start 6 sc into a magic ring [6]
02. inc in each st around [12]
03. *sc, inc* [18]
04. *sc 2, inc* [24]

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.

Tail

With orange yarn:

01. start 6 sc into a magic ring [6]
02. *sc 2, inc* [8]
03. *sc 3, inc* [10]

Switch to brown yarn:

04. sc in each st around [10]

Switch to orange yarn:

- 05 - 06. sc in each st around [10]

Switch to brown yarn:

07. sc in each st around [10]

Switch to orange yarn:

- 08 - 09. sc in each st around [10]

Switch to brown yarn:

10. sc in each st around [10]

Switch to orange yarn:

- 11 - 12. sc in each st around [10]

Switch to brown yarn:

13. sc 4, inc, sc 3, dec [10]

Switch to orange yarn:

- 14 - 15. sc 4, inc, sc 3, dec [10]

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing. Fold the top opening in half and slip stitch closed.
