

Practise your increasing and decreasing by creating fun juggling balls

Whether your kids love to play circus acts or hopscotch, bean bag style juggling balls have a number of uses. Crochet these ones together using simple increases and decreases to create a quick and fun gift for a little one, adapting the decorations to their own tastes.

Stitches used:

Magic ring
Slip stitch (sl st)
Chain (ch)
Double crochet (dc)
Double crochet two together (dc2tog)
Half treble (htr)

Rounds 5-9: Work five rounds of dc without any increases.
Round 10: [dc2tog, dc in next 3 dc] around. (24 sts).
Round 11: [dc2tog, dc in next 2 dc] around. (18 sts).
Round 12: [dc2tog, dc in next dc] around. (12 sts).
Fill the ball with dried beans.

Round 13: dc2tog around. (6 sts).
Cut the yarn, leaving a long tail and thread onto a tapestry needle. Pass through the remaining stitches and pull tight. Fasten off.

juggling balls

With a 3.5mm hook and coloured yarn, make a magic ring and work 6 dc into the centre.

Round 1: 2 dc in ea dc around. (12 sts).

Round 2: [2 dc in next dc, 1 dc in next dc] around. (18 sts).

Round 3: [2 dc in next dc, 1 dc in next 2 dc] around. (24 sts).

Round 4: [2 dc in next dc, 1 dc in next 3 dc] around. (30 sts).

hot tip

Make sure your beans are large enough to not poke through the stitches!

dots

With a 3.5mm hook and coloured yarn, make a magic ring and work 6 dc into the centre.

(Fasten off here for a tiny dot).

Round 1: 2 dc in each dc around. (12 sts).

(Fasten off here for medium dot).

Round 2: [2 dc in next dc, 1 dc in next dc] around. (18 sts).

(Fasten off here for large dot).

Sew the dots onto the juggling ball using the tails.

flowers

make 3

With a 3.5mm hook and coloured yarn, make a magic ring and work 10 dc into the centre.

Sl st into first st.

2 ch, 1 htr, 1 tr into next stitch, sl st into next. Rep from * to * four more times.

Fasten off. Sew the flowers onto the juggling ball using the tails.

hearts

With a 3.5mm hook and coloured yarn, make a magic ring and ch 2.

Into the magic ring, 3 htr, 4 dc, 1 htr, 4 dc, 3 htr. Pull the magic ring closed and tease out the shape of the heart. 1 ch and sl st

into centre hole. Fasten off and use tails to sew onto the juggling ball.



LGC says...

"I loved trying to juggle as a child, it kept me entertained for hours although I wasn't very good!"

Emily Davies,
Editor