

DUTCH RABBIT

a crochet pattern by Kati Galusz



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Materials

You will need two colors of yarn:

B – black, brown, blue/grey or other bunny-appropriate color

W – white

If you want a fluffy tail, I suggest to use either acrylics or a wool, mohair or alpaca yarn, these fibres usually ‘brush up’ nicely. Yarn weight is not important, as long as you choose a fitting hook to work with, it will only influence the finished size. My example bunnies took less than 40g of dark and 20g of white Red Heart Lisa (DK) – you would need probably about twice as much if using worsted weight. With DK yarn, the finished bunny is about 20cm/8” long and 15 cm/6” tall to the tip of the ear.

You will need fiberfill for stuffing, and a length of pink embroidery thread for the nose and mouth.

For eyes, I used 12mm black safety eyes for my DK bunnies (you would probably need 13.5mm eyes for a rabbit made from worsted weight yarn). Alternatively, you could use buttons, felt, or for a child-safe toy embroider the eyes directly on the crochet fabric.

Optionally, you can use a piece of Velcro or a pet slicker brush to make the tail fluffy.

Hook size

You want a tight gauge so the fiberfill won’t show between your stitches, use whatever size allows you to achieve that (it will be smaller than suggested on the label). I like to use 3 mm hook with DK yarn and 3.5 mm/E hook for worsted weight.

Abbreviations (aka you need to know how to do):

ch – chain

st – stitch

sl st – slip stitch

sc – single crochet

inc – single crochet increase (work 2 sc in the same stitch)

invdec – invisible decrease

FLO – work in front loops only

start with magic ring

The rabbit will be worked in continuous spiral without joining rounds - use a stitch marker or a piece of scrap yarn inserted into the first stitch of the round to keep track of your work.

Lots of color changes are needed to create the typical markings of this breed. Because long floats could influence the shape of the head, I suggest to cut and tie yarn each time rather than carrying the unused color - it’s a bit tiresome but pays out in the end. Leave relatively long ends of the dark yarn (about 7cm/3”), so in the end you can bunch them up to keep them from showing through the white areas.

Start with making the front legs.

Front legs (make 2)

With **W**,

- 1: 6 sc in magic ring, pull ring tight
 - 2: inc in each st around (12)
 - 3-7: sc in each st around (12)
- Sl st to join to the next st and fasten off.

Head and body

With **W**,

- 1: 6 sc in magic ring, pull ring tight
- 2: inc in each st around (12)
- 3: [inc, sc in next st] 6 times (18)
- 4: sc in each st around (18)
- 5: [inc, sc in next 2 st] 6 times (24)

- 6: with **W**: sc in next 4 st
with **B**: sc in next 5 st
with **W**: sc in next 7 st
with **B**: sc in next 5 st
with **W**: sc in next 3 st (24)

- 7: with **W**: inc, sc in next 3 st
with **B**: inc, sc in next 3 st, inc
with **W**: sc in next 3 st, inc, sc in next 3 st
with **B**: inc, sc in next 3 st, inc
with **W**: sc in next 3 st (30)

- 8: with **W**: sc in next 5 st
with **B**: sc in next 6 st, inc
with **W**: invdec, sc in next 4 st, invdec
with **B**: inc, sc in next 6 st
with **W**: sc in next 3 st (30)

- 9: with **W**: sc in next 5 st
with **B**: sc in next 8 st
with **W**: sc in next 4 st, invdec
with **B**: inc, sc in next 6 st, inc
with **W**: invdec, sc in next st (30)

- 10: with **W**: inc, sc in next 4 st
with **B**: inc, sc in next 4 st, inc, sc in next 3 st
with **W**: sc in next st, inc, sc in next 2 st

with **B**: sc in next 2 st, inc, sc in next 4 st, inc, sc in next 2 st
with **W**: sc in next 2 st (36)

11: with **W**: sc in next 6 st
with **B**: sc in next 10 st, inc
with **W**: invdec, sc in next st, invdec
with **B**: inc, sc in next 11 st
with **W**: sc in next 2 st (36)

12: with **W**: sc in next 6 st
with **B**: sc in next 11 st, inc
with **W**: invdec, sc in next st
with **B**: sc in next 13 st
with **W**: sc in next 2 st (36)

13: with **W**: [sc in next st, inc] 3 times, sc in next st
with **B**: [sc in next 5 st, inc] twice
with **W**: incdec
with **B**: [inc, sc in next 5 st] twice, sc in next st
with **W**: sc in next 2 st (42)

14: with **W**: [inc, sc in next 2 st] 3 times, sc in next 2 st
with **B**: sc in next 28 st
with **W**: sc in next 3 st (45)

15: with **W**: [sc in next 3 st, inc] twice, sc in next 7 st
with **B**: sc in next 26 st
with **W**: sc in next 4 st (47)

16: with **W**: [sc in next 4 st, inc] twice, sc in next 8 st
with **B**: sc in next 24 st
with **W**: sc in next 5 st (49)

17: with **W**: [sc in next 5 st, inc] twice, sc in next 10 st
with **B**: sc in next 10 st, invdec, sc in next 9 st
with **W**: sc in next 6 st (50)

The front legs will be joined to the body in the next round.

18: with **W**, sc in next 4 st;
hold a leg in front of the body and crocheting through both fabric, sc in next 4 st;
continue working on the body only, sc in next 3 st;
hold the second leg in front of the body and through both fabric, sc in the next 4 st;
now only through the body again, sc in next 11 st
(continued on next page)





18: (continued from last page)

with **B**: sc in next 5 st, invdec, sc in next 3 st, invdec, sc in next 5 st
with **W**: sc in next 7 st (48)

19: with **W**, sc in next 4 st. Around the leg, sc in the next 8 st (the stitches left unworked in the last round), sc in the 3 st between the legs, sc in the 8 unworked st of the second leg, sc in next 12 st of the body
with **B**: sc in next 4 st, invdec, sc in next st, invdec, sc in next 4 st
with **W**: sc in next 8 st (54)



20: with **W**: sc in next 3 st, inc, sc in next 7 st, invdec, sc in next st, invdec, sc in next 7 st, inc, sc in next 13 st
with **B**: [sc in next st, invdec] twice, sc in next st
with **W**: sc in next 10 st (52)

Congratulations, you are done with the complicated part! The rest should go faster.



This is a good time to attach the safety eyes (if using). Stuff the head and insert eyes between round 9 and 10, about 4 st from the edges of the white 'flame'. Remove stuffing and turn the bunny inside out. Put on the washers.

To keep the dark yarn ends from showing through the white part of the head, gather them together into one loose bunch over each side. Tie them together with a piece of scrap yarn, and trim the ends. Then turn the bunny right side out again and continue to crochet.



A pattern by Kati Galusz (<http://www.ravelry.com/people/Luna1130>, <http://www.etsy.com/shop/LunasCrafts>)
Feel free to contact me (lunacollie@gmail.com , or via Ravelry or Etsy) if you have any problem following the pattern, or notice a mistake, or just to show me your creation.

With **W**,

21-22: sc in each st around (52)

23: sc in next 38 st, inc, sc in next 3 st, inc, sc in next 9 st (54)

24: sc in each st around (54)

25: sc in next 39 st, inc, sc in next 3 st, inc, sc in next 10 st (56)

26-27: sc in each st around (56)

28: with **W**: sc in next 16 st

with **B**: sc in next 26 st, inc, sc in next 3 st, inc, sc in next 9 st (58)

With **B** from here on,

29-31: sc in each st around (58)

32: sc in next 44 st, inc, sc in next 3 st, inc, sc in next 9 st (60)

33-35: sc in each st around (60)

Because of the loose skin and fluffy coat, most of the haunches seem to meld into the body, only appearing as a slight bump on each side (plus the feet of course). To make sure these bumps will be at the right place, flatten the bunny side to side so that the eyes and front legs are symmetrical. Your last stitch should be 18 sc away from the fold at the bottom – add or remove stitches if necessary.

(this check is important because crochet has a natural tilt that might be slightly different for every crocheter)



36: in FLO, inc in next 8 st

in both loops, sc in next 20 st

in FLO, inc in next 8 st

in both loops, sc in next 24 st (76)

37: sc in each st around (76)

38: [invdec, sc in next st] 5 times, sc in next 22 st, [sc in next st, invdec] 5 times, sc in next 24 st (66)

39-40: sc in each st around (66)

Stuff head, front legs and the front of the body.

41: sc in next 45 st, [invdec, sc in next 5 st] 3 times (63)

42-43: sc in each st around (63)

44: sc in next 38 st, [sc in next 5 st, invdec] 3 times, sc in next 4 st (60)

45: sc in each st around (60)

46: sc in next 42 st, [sc in next 4 st, invdec] 3 times (57)

47: sc in next 42 st, [sc in next 3 st, invdec] 3 times (54)

48: sc in next 42 st, [sc in next 2 st, invdec] 3 times (51)

49: [sc in next 15 st, invdec] 3 times (48)

- 50: [sc in next 7 st, invdec, sc in next 7 st] 3 times (45)
 51: [invdec, sc in next 13 st] 3 times (42)
 52: [invdec, sc in next 5 st] 6 times (36)
 53: [sc in next 2 st, invdec, sc in next 2 st] 6 times (30)
 54: [invdec, sc in next 3 st] 6 times (24)
 55: [sc in next st, invdec, sc in next st] 6 times (18)

Start stuffing the body, then add some more fiberfill after the next round. Make sure the stuffing is evenly distributed and emphasizes the smooth curve of the back and the leg ‘bumps’.

- 56: [invdec, sc in next st] 6 times (12)
 57: invdec 6 times (6)

Fasten off, use yarn end to close the remaining gap.

If you didn’t use safety eyes, attach/embroider eyes now – they should be between round 9 & 10, about 4 st from the edges of the the white ‘flame’.

Ears (make 2)

With **B**,

- 1: 6 sc in magic ring, pull ring tight.
 2: [inc, sc in next 2 st] twice (8)
 3: [inc, sc in next 3 st] twice (10)
 4: [inc, sc in next 4 st] twice (12)
 5: sc in each st around (12)
 6: [inc, sc in next 5 st] twice (14)
 7-8: sc in each st around (14)
 9: [inc, sc in next 6 st] twice (16)
 10-11: sc in each st around (16)
 12: [inc, sc in next 7 st] twice (18)
 13-17: sc in each st around



Sl st to join to next st, fasten off leaving a long yarn end. Flatten the ear, pinch together the bottom corners, and sew them together to fix the ear in this position.

Pin the ears to the head. Rabbit ears are very expressive and they will be the most important influence on your bunny’s personality, so give this several tries until you find the cutest look. I like to attach them 1-2 rounds behind the tip of the ‘flame’, with the open side looking half forward, half towards the side. Use the long yarn ends to sew on the ears.



Rear feet (make 2)

With **W**,

1: 6 sc in magic ring, pull ring tight

2: inc in each st around (12)

3-5: sc in each st around (12)

Change to **B**.

6-15: sc in each st around (12)

9: invdec 4 times (leaving 4 st unworked)

Sl st to next st to join, fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.



The rear feet will bear no weight, so it's enough to stuff them lightly. Pin foot to the body at ground level, the color change should be at the 'leg bump'. Flatten the open end toward the body. Using yarn needle and the long yarn tail, sew this end to the body (closing the foot in the process). Then make a few stitches between body and foot near the color change, to anchor it in the correct position.

Tail

With **B**,

1: 6 sc in magic ring, pull ring tight

2: inc in each st around (12)

3: [inc, sc in next 3 st] 3 times (15)

4-7: sc in each st around (15)

8: [invdec, sc in next 3 st] 3 times (12)

9: [invdec, sc in next st] 4 times (8)

Sl st to join to next st, fasten off leaving long end for sewing.

If you want a fuzzy tail, use a piece of Velcro or a wire brush to fluff up the crochet fabric. Stuff the tail lightly so it's puffy but still flat.

The closed tip of the tail should be roughly where you closed the last gap of the body. Flatten the bottom end and sew it to the body, closing the opening in the process. Then make a few stitches between body and tail about three quarter up the tail, to anchor it in the right position.



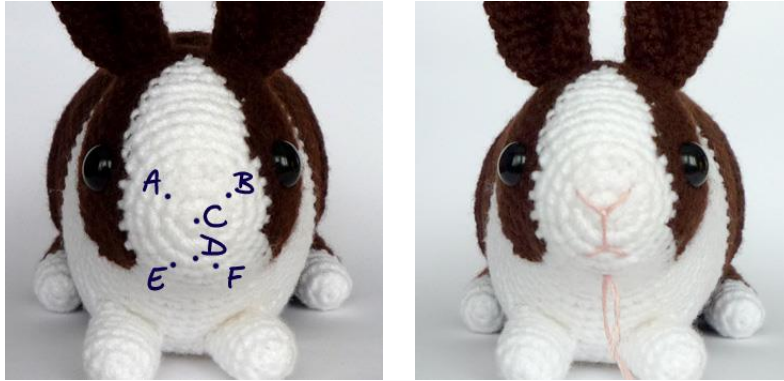
Nose and mouth

With embroidery floss and a sharp needle, insert your needle between stitches at the downside of the neck. Come out at A, leaving about 2-3" floss end hanging free on the neck.

Make a loose stitch, going down at B. Come out at C, and gently tighten your floss so it pulls the first stitch into a V shape.

Go down at D and come out again at E. Push your needle through under the vertical stitch, then go down at F and get out at the downside of the neck, where you started from. Tighten the floss to make the upturned V of the mouth.

Tie the two ends of the embroidery floss together, and hide the ends inside the stuffing.



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