



Beetles, Bugs and Butterflies - Special

FIREFLY

lampyris noctiluca



Anatomy



Sport/Baby Weight Yarn size 2 - fine
Scheepjes Catona (or similar yarn)
100% mercerized cotton, 50g / 2oz (125 m / 137 yd)
10x10 cm [4x4 inch] = 26 sts x 36 rows

- A** off-white 130 Old Lace
- B** red 388 Rust
- C** black 110 Jet Black
- D** gray 387 Dark Olive

Special Threads

- E** **Glow in the Dark** Embroidery Thread
DMC Mouliné Light Effects - E940
(yarn A or 392 **Lime Juice** for not glowing version)
- F** **Gold Metallic** Embroidery Thread
Rico Metallic No. 20, color 921

You also need

2 black eyes (glass or safety eyes, Ø 5 mm / 0,20 inch)
soft stuffing (e.g., Polyfiber Fill)
blunt-tipped needle, pins, stitch markers, scissors

Crochet hook

2.25 mm (UK: 13), or 2.5 mm (US: C/2, UK: 12)

Terminology (US terms)



∩	...blo	=	work stitch as indicated through back loop only, example: scblo, dcblo, inc-blo
o	ch	=	chain stitch
	dec	=	decrease (crochet together 2 sts with 1 sc)
ƒ	dc	=	double crochet stitch
⌋	hdc	=	half double crochet stitch
xx	inc	=	increase (2 sc into the same stitch)
	lp(s)	=	loop(s)
	rnd(s)	=	round(s)
+	sc	=	single crochet stitch
•	slst	=	slip stitch
	st(s)	=	stitch(es)
ƒ	tr	=	triple crochet stitch
	yo	=	yarn over (wrap yarn around hook)
[...]...x		=	repeat instructions in brackets as a sequence as many times as written after the closing bracket, example: [...] 5x
°...°		=	work the instructions between °...+...° all into the same stitch or same spot
(...)		=	total number of sts after row or rnd

General Advice



1. For most parts you start with an **adjustable ring** („magic ring“ or „magic loop“) and you'll go on work in a **continuous spiral** (except the pattern calls for a slst to close the round). This means, you continue to crochet directly into the first stitch of the previous round to start the next round.
2. You should **mark the first stitch** of a round to keep track of where the round begins. This helps when counting your stitches to compare it with the pattern.
3. Take care to **crochet very tight** stitches! If you crochet rather loosely, choose a smaller hook size.
4. To get the right shape for your amigurumi, the most important thing is to **stuff it very well**. Stuff it as tight as you can – I mean, really tight! When you think that's enough, stuff it a bit more! A broken chopstick is the perfect tool to help you to spread the soft stuffing into every little corner.
5. If the bug will be best friend to a **child under the age of 3**, please use safety eyes or embroider the eyes with dark gray yarn. Make sure every part is tightly sewn on to securely attach all pieces to the body
6. Most important: **Have fun!**

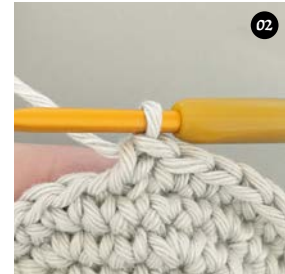
Tutorials



A . Invisible sc-decrease on 3-dimensional pieces

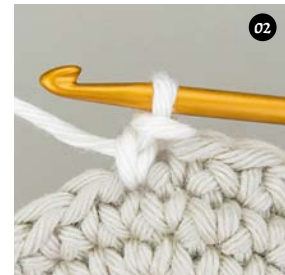
Insert the hook into the front loop of the 1st stitch and then directly also into the front loop of the 2nd stitch (3 loops on the hook → *photo 01*). Single crochet as usual: Yarn over, draw through both front loops on the hook (2 loops on the hook). Yarn over, draw yarn through both loops on the hook.

Note: This also works for taller stitches like *hdc*, *dc*, or *tr*. On flat pieces with both sides visible, you'd rather use the standard way to decrease.



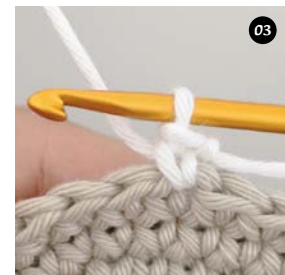
B . Changing yarn to a new yarn color

Change to another color by joining in the new color during the final step of the last stitch in the old color as follows: work the last stitch in the old color until the last two loops of the stitch are on the hook, then using the new color, wrap the yarn around the hook and pull through the 2 remaining old colored loops on your hook (→ *photo 01*). The next stitch you make will be the first stitch in the new color (→ *photo 02*).



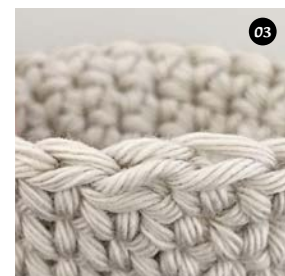
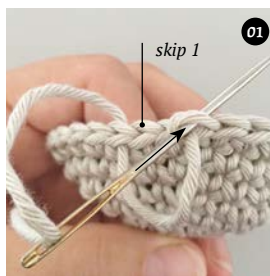
C . Standing stitch join

With a slip knot onto hook insert the hook into indicated stitch. Yarn over, draw the yarn through the stitch (→ *photo 01*). Yarn over, pull through both loops on the hook (→ *photo 02*), finish a single crochet stitch as usual (→ *photo 03*).



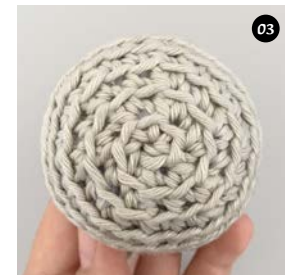
D . Invisible fasten off

Skip one stitch. Insert needle into next stitch, pull yarn through. Insert needle into the back loop of the same stitch that the yarn tail is coming from. (→ *photo 01+02*) Pull gently. This creates a false stitch (**closing stitch**) that mimics the skipped stitch (→ *photo 03*).



E . Close remaining sts through back loops

Pull the yarn tail through last stitch completely. Draw the yarn through every remaining **back loop** - from inside to outside (→ *photo 01*). Pull gently to close the gap (→ *photo 02*).



For more photo tutorials and videos, such as for the **magic loop**, visit www.lalylala.com

Larva / Female Firefly



Fireflies are using bioluminescence during twilight to attract mates or prey.

All lightning bugs already glow as larvae. This is why the larva often is called "glowworm" in Eurasia and elsewhere.



Head

Using **off-white** yarn, make a magic loop and work in a continuous spiral:

- | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|------|
| 01: | sc 7 into magic loop | (7) |
| 02: | [inc] 7x | (14) |
| 03: | [sc 1, inc] 7x | (21) |
| 04: | sc 1, inc, [sc 2, inc] 6x, sc 1 | (28) |
| 05: | [sc 3, inc] 7x | (35) |
| 06: | sc 35 | |
| 07: | sc 2, inc, [sc 4, inc] 6x, sc 2 | (42) |
| 08-13: | sc 42 (6 rnds) | |

.....
*Place the **eyes** between rounds 12 and 13 with a distance of 10 stitches between each eye.*
.....

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|------|
| 14: | sc 2, dec, [sc 4, dec] 6x, sc 2 | (35) |
| 15: | [dec, sc 3] 7x | (28) |
| 16: | sc 1, dec, [sc 2, dec] 6x, sc 1 | (21) |
| 17: | [dec, sc 1] 7x | (14) |

Stuff the head firmly.

Body

- | | | |
|--------|---|------|
| 18: | change to gray (→ <i>Tutorial B</i>), slst 14 | |
| 19: | sc 14 | |
| 20: | [sc 1, inc] 7x | (21) |
| 21: | sc 21 | |
| 22: | sc 1, inc, [sc 2, inc] 6x, sc 1 | (28) |
| 23+24: | sc 28 (2 rnds) | |

Before you go on with the body you'll need to prepare the **Glow in the Dark** yarn.

The recommended **DMC Mouliné** is a not twisted embroidery thread, made of 6 single strands coming in a length of 8 meters (8.75 yards). To get a gauge similar to the recommended cotton yarn you need to hold **9 strands** of the embroidery thread together.

Cut off a piece with a length of approx. 3 meters (3.3 yards). Separate it into 2 pieces with 3 strands each. Knot the ends of the threads together and you'll have approx. 6 meters (6.5 yards) of 3 ply thread. Hold the 3 ply together with the unseparated rest of the original thread to get the 9 ply thread which is needed.

Work all the following rounds only into the back loops of the stitches:

- 25: change to **glow** (→ *Tutorial B*), scblo 28
26+27: scblo 28 (2 rnds)
28: scblo 1, dec-blo, [scblo 2, dec-blo] 6x, scblo 1 (21)

Stuff the body firmly.

- 29: [dec-blo, scblo 1] 7x (14)
30: [dec-blo] 7x (7)

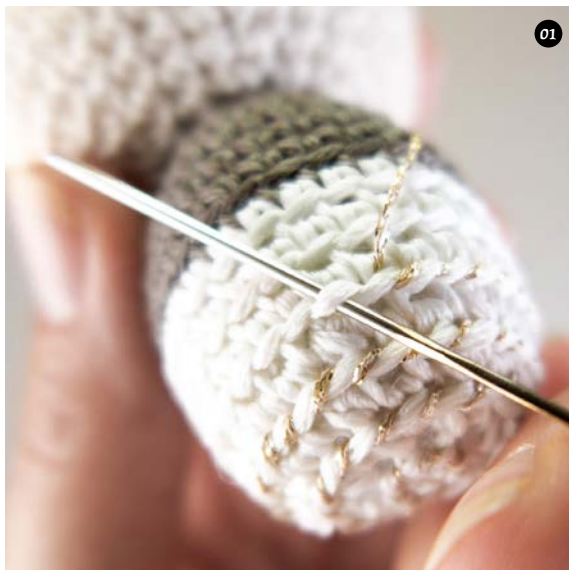
Stuff the body a bit more, break the yarn and close the round through the back loops (→ *Tutorial E*), then weave in all yarn tails.

Details

Thread a tapestry needle with the **Golden Metallic Embroidery Thread** and turn the body **upside down**.

Starting in the very last remaining front loop of the last round of the body, stitch through every remaining glow-white front loop (→ *photo 01*) until the last glow-white stitch.

Sew in the ends.



Hat

Using **red** yarn, make a magic loop. Work in a continuous spiral.

- 01: sc 7 into magic loop (7)
02: [inc] 7x (14)
03: [sc 1, inc] 7x (21)
04: sc 1, inc, [sc 2, inc] 6x, sc 1 (28)
05: [sc 3, inc] 7x (35)
06: sc 35
07: sc 2, inc, [sc 4, inc] 6x, sc 2 (42)
08-14: sc 42 (7 rnds)

After rnd 14, pull the hat onto the head so that the back of the hat sits at the base of the neck.

Decide whether it fits properly (Remember there's still one round to go!). If it seems a little too short, crochet one more straight round. If it fits, just go on with rnd 15.

- 15: sc 2, dec, [sc 4, dec] 6x, sc 2 (35)

Slst 1 into the next stitch, break the yarn and fasten off invisibly (→ *Tutorial D*).

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Fireflies communicate using light signals such as steady glows, or flashing. Some species even synchronise their flashes rhythmically among large groups.

The 'Photuris firefly' is also known as 'femme fatale firefly'. Females of this species mimic the flash patterns of other lightning bugs to attract males for the sole purpose of predation.

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Antennae (make 2)

Using **black** yarn, make a foundation chain of 4 ch.

Crochet into the bumps on the back of the chain, starting in the 2nd back bump (→ *photo 01*): sc 1, slst 2.

Break the yarn with a long rest and fasten off. Sew the antennae onto the hat – right above the 3rd round counting upwards from the rim, with a distance of 2 stitches between the antennae (→ *photo 02*).



Compound Eyes (make 2)

Using **black**, make a magic loop and work in a continuous spiral.

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------|------|
| 01: | sc 7 into magic loop | (7) |
| 02: | [inc] 7x | (14) |
| 03: | [sc 1, inc] 7x | (21) |
| 04: | sc 21 | |
| 05: | sc 20, slst 1 | |

Break the yarn with a very long tail and close the round invisibly (→ *Tutorial D*).

Put the hat on the head with the back of the hat sitting at the base of the firefly's neck.

Add a little bit of stuffing in between the eye and the hat to keep the shape. Pin in position on the left side and the right side of the hat – between the top of rnd 5 (counting upwards from the rim) and the top of rnd 3 (counting downwards from the middle of the magic loop on the top of the hat → *photos 03+04*). Use the yarn tails to sew the eyes onto the hat (→ *photos 05+06*).

Wing Suit



In many species of lightning bugs, both male and female adults have the ability to fly. But in some species, the female firefly has no wings, or just very tiny wings, and can't fly.



Wing Belt

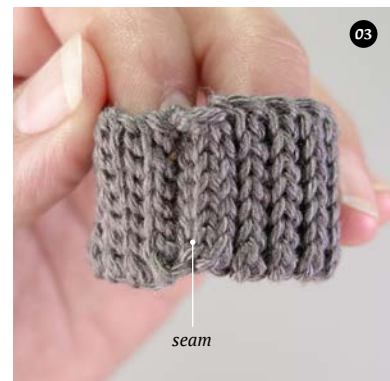
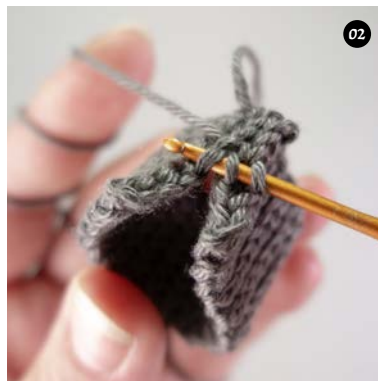
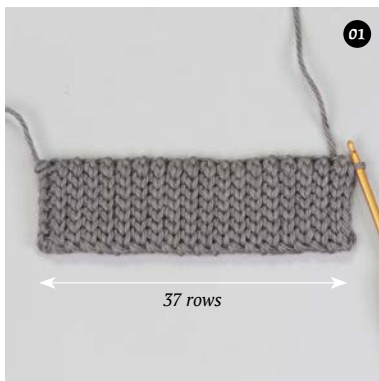
The wing belt – a crochet rectangle finished into a ring – is the part that the insect's wings will be attached to, to create a wing suit that can be easily pulled on and off.

Using **gray**, ch 8, starting in 2nd ch from hook,

01: slstblo 7, turn (7)
02–37: ch 1, slstblo 7, turn (→ photo 01) (36 rows)

Do not fasten off!

Ch 1, turn the rectangle into a ring by holding the first and last rows next to each other. Crochet together the remaining loops of the foundation chain on the bottom of the first row with the corresponding back loops of the stitches on the last row. Slst the ends together stitch by stitch (→ photo 02+03 = seam). Break yarn and fasten off. Weave in the ends on the inside of the belt.



Wing Parts

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Each wing is made from 2 layers – Piece 1 and Piece 2 – assembled to become a left or a right wing.
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Piece 1 (make 2)

Using **black**, ch 12. Start in the 2nd ch from hook:

01: slst 2, sc 3, hdc 3, dc 2, °dc 2 + tr 3° into the last stitch, ch 4, continue along the other side of the chain: sc 8, slst 2 (25 + 4 ch)

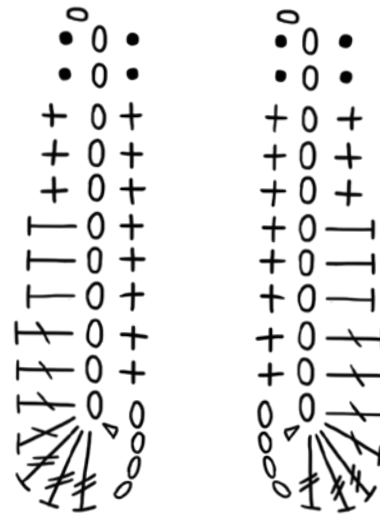
Break the yarn and close the round invisibly (→ *Tutorial D*) into the first slst. Weave in the ends on the wrong side.

Piece 2 (make 2)

Using **black**, ch 12. Start in the 2nd ch from hook:

01: slst 2, sc 8, ch 4, °tr 3 + dc 2° into the last stitch, continue along the other side of the chain: dc 2, hdc 3, sc 3, slst 2 (25 + 4 ch)

Break the yarn and close the round invisibly (→ *Tutorial D*) into the first slst. Weave in the ends on the wrong side.



Piece 1

Piece 2



Assembling Pieces 1 and 2

.....
Crochet the stitches of the following round into both corresponding stitches on both layers to connect them.
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Right Wing

Hold **piece 2 behind piece 1** so they lay flat on top of each other – right sides outside, the pointy end of the wing on the right, the curved side of the wing is the top edge. (→ *photo 01 + chart / page 10*)

Crochet the stitches of the following rnd into the inner loops (back loops) of the corresponding stitches on both layers to connect the wing pieces.

Using **two strands of Golden Metallic Thread** held together, join with a standing sc (→ *Tutorial C*) into the inner loops of the first pair of slst on the curved side of the wing. (→ *photo 01 + chart / page 10*)

Continue along the curved edge:
scblo 12, [inc-blo] 3x, scblo 13 along the straight side of the wing (→ *photo 02 + chart / page 10*).

Don't break the yarn but go on with the left wing.



Explore more bugs, such as butterflies, beetles and a snail



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Crochet Kit

There are material kits available for this and other lalylala patterns, coming with everything you need to make your own little amigurumi bug – Available in my supplies shop on Etsy: www.etsy.com/shop/lalylaland

Related Patterns

Complete your lalylala microcosm with **other bugs** of this series. There are many other **butterflies**, **beetles** and **snails** to discover! Hats and wing suits are interchangeable to create new outfits for your little bugs – It's a little big world full of possibilities!

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