



CROCHET / ACCESSORIES

Sleepy Bubble Pencil Pouch

A soft cream case with a zipper, sleepy eyes and pastel bobbles.

CROCHET PATTERN NEST

A playful pouch for pencils

This original pattern makes a soft cylindrical case from a flat crocheted panel, two round end caps, and a sewn-in zipper. Finish it with embroidered closed eyes and six tiny pastel bobbles. The project image illustrates the intended look; use the written measurements and your own gauge for the finished piece.



The complete pouch remains visible in the photograph.

Materials & sizing

Yarn: about 70-90 g of sport-weight cotton in cream, small amounts of peach, butter yellow and lilac, and dark embroidery yarn. **Tools:** 2.75 mm hook, yarn needle, stitch markers, sewing needle, matching thread, scissors and a 20-22 cm / 8-8.5 in zipper. A little stuffing is needed for six bobbles; keep it out of the pouch body.

Approximate finished size: 21-23 cm long and 5-6 cm across. Make a swatch: aim for about **23 sc and 19 hdc rows per 10 cm / 4 in** after gentle blocking. Fit the zipper to the actual top opening; add or remove rows if your fabric wraps too tightly or too loosely around the end cap.

US CROCHET TERMS

ch chain **sc** single crochet **hdc** half double crochet **sl st** slip stitch **inc** two sc in one stitch **dec** sc two stitches together **BLO** back loop only.

One panel becomes the tube

Work back and forth in cream. The starting chain sets the **length** of the pouch. The number of rows sets how far the panel wraps around its end caps. Keep the first and last long edges straight for the zipper.

FOUNDATION AND ROWS

Foundation: ch 51.

Row 1: sc in the second chain from the hook and in every chain across. Turn. **50 sc.**

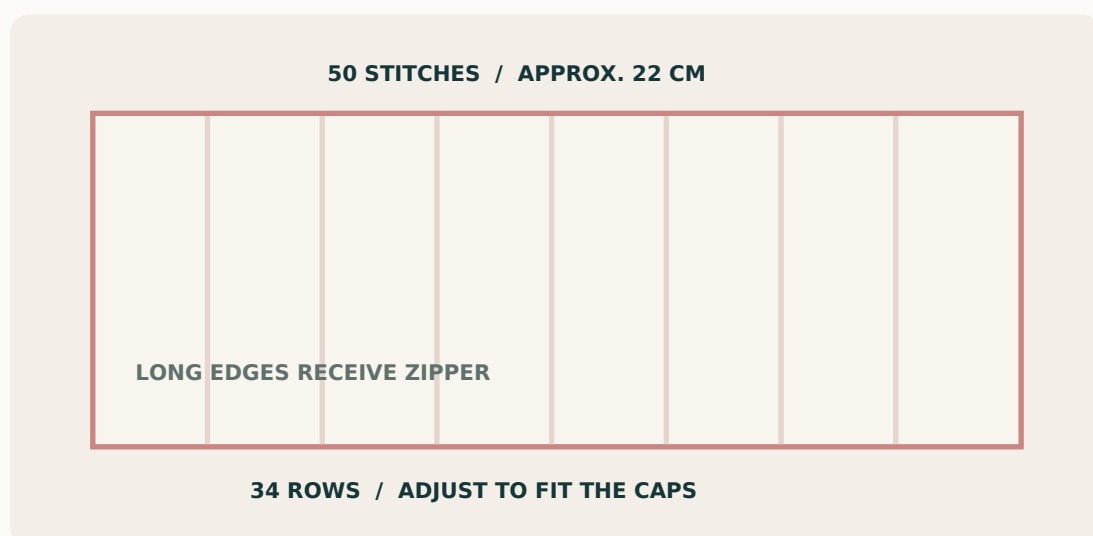
Rows 2-34: ch 1 (does not count), hdc BLO in each stitch across, then turn. **50 hdc in every row.** After row 34, the panel should be close to 22 cm long and 18 cm wide at the suggested gauge. Do not fasten off until you check the fit around an end cap.

ADJUST THE WIDTH

Wrap the panel around the outer edge of one blocked end cap. The two long edges should meet with room for a zipper seam, without stretching. Add or remove complete rows as needed. Record your final row count so both ends can be sewn evenly.

Reinforce the zipper edges

Work one neat row of sc along each long edge (about 50 stitches). Use a separate join for the second edge. Keep the edging relaxed; it should not gather the body. Leave a long yarn tail at each short edge for sewing the end caps later.



Round ends, neat opening

Make two flat circles in cream. Work in continuous rounds and mark the first stitch. If the disc cups, relax your tension; if it ripples, use a slightly smaller hook. Each disc should match the opening formed by the wrapped body panel.

END CAP / MAKE TWO

1	6 sc in a magic ring.	6
2	Inc in each stitch.	12
3	(1 sc, inc) six times.	18
4	(2 sc, inc) six times.	24
5	(3 sc, inc) six times.	30
6	(4 sc, inc) six times.	36
7	(5 sc, inc) six times.	42

Fasten off with a long tail. Block the two discs alike. At the sample gauge, the last round has a circumference around 18 cm / 7 in. The exact diameter depends on yarn and tension.

SEW IN THE ZIPPER

With the panel right side facing out, pin the zipper tape underneath the two reinforced long edges. Keep the teeth exposed and the fabric a consistent distance from them. Center the zipper along the 50-stitch opening, leaving its ends inside the future end seams. Hand-sew with small backstitches through the tape and crochet edge. Open and close it several times before attaching the caps.

ATTACH THE END CAPS

Half-open the zipper and turn the pouch wrong side out. Pin a disc at each short opening in four equal sections. Sew around, easing the panel row ends evenly against the 42 stitches of the circle; the counts need not match one-to-one. Catch the zipper ends securely in the seams. Turn right side out.

Give the pouch its sleepy face

Embroider before attaching the end caps if you want access to the back of the panel. Place two gently curved closed eyes on the lower half of the body, about 5-6 cm apart. Add three short eyelashes under each curve and a tiny blush smile between them. Use small, even backstitches and secure the yarn on the inside.

PASTEL BOBBLE / MAKE SIX

Make two each in peach, butter yellow and lilac. Work in continuous rounds with a marker.

Round 1: 6 sc in a magic ring (6).

Round 2: inc in every stitch (12).

Round 3: sc in every stitch (12).

Round 4: dec six times (6). Add a small amount of stuffing, close the opening and keep a long sewing tail.

Arrange three bobbles along the seam of each end cap, mixing the colors. Sew each through several stitches of the cap and body, knot securely inside, and hide the tail. Keep the decorations clear of the zipper teeth and slider.

OPTIONAL ZIPPER PULL

Chain 16 in peach, pass the chain through the zipper-pull hole, and slip stitch back to form a small loop. Secure the ends well. Skip this detail if the zipper slider already has an easy-to-grip pull.



Final fit & quick fixes

Try several pencils inside and open the zipper fully. The body should hold its shape without stretching at the seams. Weave in every remaining tail and give the cotton a light steam from a safe distance, keeping the heat away from the zipper.

IF THE TUBE IS TOO TIGHT

Add two more body rows before installing the zipper. If an end cap seems too large, stop after round 6 and check its diameter. Make both caps identical.

IF THE ZIPPER EDGE WAVES

Remove the zipper and re-pin without stretching the crochet. Use shorter sewing stitches, keep the zipper teeth straight, and check alignment before sewing the second side.

PROJECT RECAP

Body: 50 stitches across, approximately 34 rows. **Ends:** two 42-stitch discs. **Closure:** sewn-in zipper. **Details:** embroidered face and six tiny bobbles. Measure your own gauge and adjust the panel rows before assembly.

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