Paper-Nest Hornet's Nest

A crochet pattern for a soft, ridged decorative nest inspired by the large paper nests found in nature and garden shops.

Simple construction. Big texture. A little wonderland for your wall, porch, or photo corner.

15 in LONG

8.5-9 in WIDE

US TERMS

ADVANCED BEGINNER



THE FINISHED NEST

Designed to be crocheted, shaped, and hung.

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STEP 1 / SET YOUR TABLE

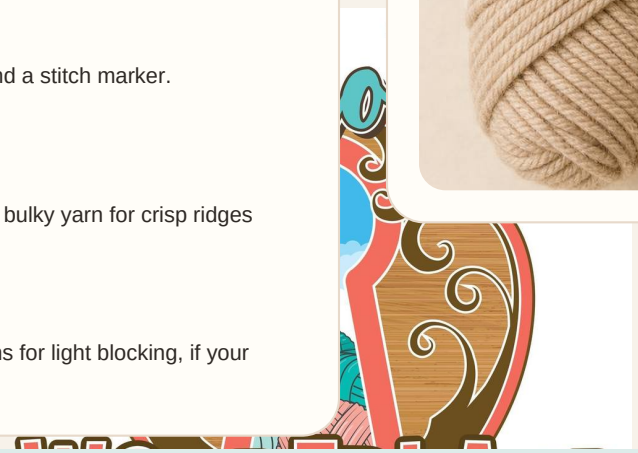
Before you begin

Gather your materials and choose a smooth, sturdy yarn. This version gets its shape from the crochet itself.

MATERIALS

- **Yarn**
  Bulky #5 yarn, about 180-220 yd / 165-200 m, in warm beige or almond.
- **Hook**
  8 mm (L/11) crochet hook. The dark hook shown in the photos is easy to see against light yarn.
- **Measure**
  A measuring tape or ruler for checking the finished length and widest point.
- **Finish**
  Scissors, tapestry needle, and a stitch marker.
- **Yarn note**
  Choose smooth, tightly plied bulky yarn for crisp ridges and a shell with some body.
- **Optional block**
  Clean towel and rust-free pins for light blocking, if your fiber responds well to it.





FIT, GAUGE, AND ABBREVIATIONS

Finished size: approximately 15 in long x 8.5-9 in at the widest point, with a bottom opening of about 3 in. The 54-stitch widest round is written to land in this range at the gauge below.

Gauge: about 8 sc x 8 rounds = 4 in. Gauge controls the finished size, so measure the widest point at Round 9 and adjust your hook if needed.

US terms: ch = chain; sc = single crochet; sl st = slip stitch; BLO = back loop only; inc = 2 sc in the same stitch; dec = sc2tog; st/sts = stitch/stitches; MR = magic ring.

Construction note: Work in a continuous spiral. Use a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round and move it as you go.

**** Helpful tip:*** *This is a soft, lightweight decorative nest, not a rigid paper replica. Smooth yarn and firm tension give the most paper-like texture.*

STEP 2 / MAKE THE CROWN

Crochet the top

Start with a small closed crown, then increase evenly until the nest reaches its widest point.

ROUNDS 1-9 / EXPAND TO 54 STS

Place a marker in the first stitch. Each round below is worked in a continuous spiral.

R1	MR, 6 sc	**6**
R2	inc around	**12**
R3	(sc, inc) around	**18**
R4	(2 sc, inc) around	**24**
R5	(3 sc, inc) around	**30**
R6	(4 sc, inc) around	**36**
R7	(5 sc, inc) around	**42**
R8	(6 sc, inc) around	**48**
R9	(7 sc, inc) around	**54**

How to read it: In R3, work 1 single crochet, then 2 single crochets in the next stitch; repeat around.

**** Helpful tip:*** *Count after every increase round: R9 must end at 54 stitches.*



STEP 2 VISUAL

Make the magic ring and keep the first few rounds snug. The dark hook helps you see each beige stitch.

At the end of R9, the crown should look like a shallow dome, not a flat circle.

STEP 3 / BUILD THE TEXTURE

Add the ridged body

The body is mostly single crochet. Every fourth round is worked through the back loop only to create the layered-paper effect.



STEP 3 VISUAL

Work into the back loop only for the ridge round. The unused front loop becomes the raised paper-like line.

***Helpful tip:** Keep tension even to avoid a floppy shell.*

ROUNDS 10-23 / HOLD 54 STS

R10	sc BLO around / ridge 1	**54**
R11	sc around	**54**
R12	sc around	**54**
R13	sc BLO around / ridge 2	**54**
R14	sc around	**54**
R15	sc around	**54**
R16	sc BLO around / ridge 3	**54**
R17	sc around	**54**
R18	sc around	**54**
R19	sc BLO around / ridge 4	**54**
R20	sc around	**54**
R21	sc around	**54**
R22	sc BLO around / ridge 5	**54**
R23	sc around	**54**

TEXTURE CHECK

After R23, you should have five gentle horizontal ridges and a shell that is about 11.5 in long, depending on gauge. Keep the ridges relaxed rather than pulling them tight.

***Helpful tip:** For a taller nest, repeat R20-R21 once before starting the taper.*

STEP 4 / SHAPE THE OPENING

Taper the bottom

Decrease gradually to form a natural entrance. The finished shape comes from the stitch counts, not a separate form.

ROUNDS 24-30 / TAPER TO 18 STS

Use sc2tog for dec. Keep the opening open; do not close the final round.

R24	(7 sc, dec) around	**48**
R25	(6 sc, dec) around	**42**
R26	(5 sc, dec) around	**36**
R27	(4 sc, dec) around	**30**
R28	(3 sc, dec) around	**24**
R29	(2 sc, dec) around	**18**
R30	sc around	**18**

Fasten off, leaving a 12-14 in tail. Weave in the starting tail, but leave the bottom opening flexible.

**** Helpful tip:*** *If the opening feels tight, stop after R29. If loose, add one more decrease round.*



STEP 4 VISUAL

You are shaping the lower point while preserving a round entrance.

Next: add the hanging loop, then shape the shell by hand.

5 ADD THE HANGING LOOP

At the top center of the nest, join the yarn through the magic-ring area. Chain 18. Slip stitch back into the same top point. Fasten off and weave the ends securely. Fold the chain over and tack its base with a tapestry needle if you want extra security.

**** Helpful tip:*** *Test the loop with the empty shell first. It should support the finished nest without stretching the top stitches.*

STEP 6 / SHAPE BY HAND

Let the crochet make the shape

Use your hands to settle the ridges into a long, tapered nest.



STEP 6 VISUAL

Shape gently and keep the opening centered.

SHAPING SEQUENCE

- **A** Gently stretch the shell lengthwise until it measures about 15 in from the top loop to the lower opening.
- **B** Press and round the widest area until it measures about 8.5-9 in across. Keep the stitch texture visible.
- **C** Optional block: lightly dampen, shape on a clean towel, and pin the outer ridges until fully dry.
- **D** Blocking helps set the silhouette but will not make the crochet rigid. Hang it to check the shape.

**** Helpful tip:** Gauge controls the silhouette. Use the final-page adjustments if needed.*

CHECK THE OPENING

Weave in the starting tail and the finishing tail. Check that the bottom opening is round, flexible, and large enough to read as the nest entrance. Reinforce the hanging loop with a few extra tapestry-needle passes if needed.

Give the shell one final gentle shaping pass from the inside: widen the middle, keep the crown pointed, and keep the lower opening centered.

**** Helpful tip:** The opening is intentional. It gives the nest a believable entrance and keeps the project completely crochet-only.*

STEP 7 / HANG YOUR LITTLE WONDER

Finish and make it yours

Your shell is complete. Give it a final inspection, then hang it somewhere dry and sheltered.



THE FINISHED SHAPE

The measuring tape is included as a visual size reference for the 15 in crochet-only nest.

FINAL CHECK

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Trim loose ends. Confirm the loop is secure. Check that the widest point is about 8.5-9 in and that the bottom opening remains clear.

For a more layered paper look, choose smooth, tightly plied yarn and keep your tension firm and even on every round.

**** Helpful tip:** Keep the finished piece indoors or covered; natural fibers can soften in moisture.*

EASY SIZE ADJUSTMENTS

Shorter: omit R11 or R14.

Taller: repeat R20-R21 once before R24.

Wider: use a larger hook only if your Round 9 measures less than 8.5 in across; keep the 54-stitch count.

QUICK REFERENCE

Yarn: bulky #5, beige, 220-280 yd | Hook: 8 mm (L/11) | Widest round: 54 sts | Main stitch: sc | Ridge stitch: sc BLO | Finished size: about 15 in x 8.5-9 in | Optional: light blocking

This pattern is written in US terms. Keep your finished nest clearly identified as handmade decor so it is not mistaken for an active nest.

follow the thread