

Olive the Crochet Octopus Puzzle Pattern

Materials Needed:

- **Yarn:**
 - **Main Color** (Body and Tentacles): Worsted weight cotton or acrylic yarn (e.g., 100-150g).
 - **Accent Color** (Eyes and details): Small amounts of contrasting yarn.
- **Hook Size: 4mm (G)**
- **Stuffing:** Polyester fiberfill for stuffing the puzzle pieces.
- **Safety Eyes:** 10-12mm safety eyes (optional).
- **Stitch Markers:** To keep track of your rounds.
- **Tapestry Needle:** For weaving in ends and sewing parts together.
- **Scissors:** To cut yarn cleanly.
- **Measuring Tape:** For checking dimensions.

Measurements:

- **Octopus Body:** Approximately **4-6 inches tall** (10-15 cm) when completed.
- **Tentacles:** Each tentacle will be about **6-8 inches long** (15-20 cm) when stretched.
- **Finished Puzzle Size:** Approximately **8-10 inches wide** (20-25 cm).

Abbreviations:

- **ch:** Chain
- **sc:** Single crochet
- **inc:** Increase (2 sc in the same stitch)
- **dec:** Decrease (single crochet 2 stitches together)
- **sl st:** Slip stitch
- **st:** Stitch

- **FO:** Fasten off

Stitching Instructions for Olive the Crochet Octopus Puzzle Pattern:

Base: Rounds to Shape the Body

- **Magic Ring Start:** Begin with a magic ring. If you're new to this, create a loop with the yarn, insert the hook into the loop, yarn over, pull up a loop, and proceed to create the stitches inside the loop.
- **Round-by-Round Breakdown:**
 - **Round 1:** 6 sc into the magic ring. Pull the ring tight. (6 sts)
 - Place a stitch marker in the first stitch to track rounds.
 - **Round 2:** Inc in each st around. (12 sts)
 - Work 2 sc in each stitch for the entire round.
 - **Round 3:**(*Sc, inc*) repeat around. (18 sts)
 - Alternate between 1 sc in a stitch and 2 sc in the next stitch.
 - **Round 4:**(*2 sc, inc*) repeat around. (24 sts)
 - Work 2 sc in the next 2 stitches, then 2 sc in the following stitch. Repeat.
 - **Round 5:**(*3 sc, inc*) repeat around. (30 sts)
 - Work 3 sc, then inc in the next stitch. Repeat.
- **Middle Section:**
 - **Rounds 6-12:** Sc in each st around. (30 sts per round)
 - Continue without increasing or decreasing to form the body height.
- **Decrease Rounds:**
 - **Round 13:**(*3 sc, dec*) repeat around. (24 sts)
 - Work 3 sc, then sc2tog (single crochet 2 together). Repeat.
 - **Round 14:** (*2 sc, dec*) repeat around. (18 sts)
 - **Round 15:** (*Sc, dec*) repeat around. (12 sts)
- **Closing the Body:**

- Firmly stuff the body with polyester fiberfill to give it a full, round shape.
- **Round 16:** Dec around until only 6 sts remain.
 - Use a tapestry needle to weave through the remaining stitches, pull tight to close, and secure.
 - FO and weave in the tail neatly.

Tentacles: Adding Spiral Texture

- **Foundation:**
 - Ch 30 (adjust the length as preferred).
 - For shorter tentacles, use ch 20–25. For longer ones, use ch 35 or more.
- **Create Spirals:**
 - Starting in the second ch from the hook, work 2 sc in each ch across.
 - This creates a natural spiral effect as the stitches bunch up.
- **Finishing Each Tentacle:**
 - FO, leaving a long tail to attach the tentacle to the body.
 - Repeat this process for all 8 tentacles.

Eyes and Details

- **Safety Eyes (Optional):**
 - Attach 10-12mm safety eyes between Rounds 5 and 6, spacing them evenly.
 - If using yarn to embroider eyes, create small ovals or circles with a contrasting color.
- **Mouth and Expressions:**
 - Embroider a smile or any desired facial expression using a tapestry needle and yarn.
 - Experiment with curved smiles, wavy lines, or even small blush marks for added personality.

Assembly Instructions

- **Attach Tentacles:**
 - Arrange the 8 tentacles evenly around the base of the body.

- Using the long tails from each tentacle, sew them securely to the bottom edge of the body.
 - Work in small, tight stitches to ensure durability.
- FO and weave in any remaining ends.
- **Double-Check Assembly:**
 - Ensure the tentacles are evenly spaced and secure.
 - Test the puzzle functionality by gently twisting the tentacles into various positions.

Customization Ideas

- **Color Variation:** Use multiple colors for the tentacles or alternate patterns.
- **Textures:** Combine cotton and acrylic yarns for different textures.
- **Additional Features:** Add small crocheted suckers to the tentacles for realism.