

“Raccoon Tori” crochet pattern with photo tutorial

by

NansyOops.

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Hi there! Who doesn't love raccoons? Today, we'll learn to crochet a little one, and why not make a whole three-pack of them right away? These little rascals won't let you get bored, and I on my part will try to show you in as much detail as possible how to make them. Let's get started!



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Materials and tools:

- Grey fingering weight yarn (sample shown in Adelia Rachel, 400 m / 100 g [437.5 yds / 3.5 oz])
- Black and white mohair yarn (sample in “Mohair delicate” by Nako, 500 m / 100 g [547 yds / 3.5 oz])
- Sew-on (glass) eyes, diameter 4 mm [0.16 in]
- Black and white cotton crochet thread, sewing thread for attaching eyes
- Crochet hook 1.5 mm [US 8 steel hook, UK 4.5]
- Feltable wool in dark grey, grey and black
- Felting needle
- Sewing needle for joining parts and embroidery needle for embellishments (with large eye)
- Sewing pins, removable marker for the beginning of the round
- Stuffing (polyester fiberfil)
- Needle-nose pliers, round-nose pliers (for pulling out needles), cotter key (optional)
- Cotter pin joints or safety joints
- Oil pastels for tinting

Abbreviations:

- ❖ sc – single crochet (US) = double crochet (UK)
- ❖ inc – increase (2 sc worked into the same stitch = with a shared base and separate tops)
- ❖ dec – decrease (2 sc crocheted off together = with separate bases and a shared top)
- ❖ AMR – adjustable magic ring
- ❖ ch – chain
- ❖ sl-st – slip stitch

Numbers in parenthesis (xx) at the end of a row/round show the stitch count after completion of this row/round. If no number is given, the stitch count stays the same as in the previous row/round.

Head*, worked in the round, starting from the top:

- Round 1: 6 sc into an AMR (6)
Round 2: 6 inc (12)
Round 3: (1 sc, inc) 6 times (18)
Round 4: (2 sc, inc) 6 times (24)
Round 5: (3 sc, inc) 6 times (30)
Round 6: (4 sc, inc) 6 times (36)
Rounds 7 – 9: into every stitch, work 1 sc ea (36)
Round 10: 4 sc, (1 sc, inc) 3 times, 12 sc, (1 sc, inc) 3 times, 8 sc (42)
Round 11: 42 sc
Round 12: (5 sc, dec) 6 times (36)
Round 13: (4 sc, dec) 6 times (30)
Round 14: (3 sc, dec) 6 times (24)
Round 15: (2 sc, dec) 6 times (18)
Round 16: (1 sc, dec) 6 times (12)



Begin stuffing the head. Make sure to distribute stuffing inside head evenly to create a symmetrically shaped head.

Round 17: dec 6 times, do not finish off here.

*how to attach head with cotter pin joint: see page 5

Body*, worked bottom up in the round:

- Round 1: 6 sc into an AMR (6)
- Round 2: 6 inc (12)
- Round 3: (1 sc, inc) 6 times (18)
- Round 4: (2 sc, inc) 6 times (24)
- Round 5: (3 sc, inc) 6 times (30)
- Round 6: (4 sc, inc) 6 times (36)
- Round 7: 36 sc
- Round 8: (4 sc, dec) 6 times (30)
- Round 9: 30 sc
- Round 10: (3 sc, dec) 6 times (24)
- Rounds 11 – 12: 24 sc
- Round 13: (2 sc, dec) 6 times (18)
- Round 14: 18 sc
- Round 15: (1 sc, dec) 6 times (12)
- Round 16: 12 sc



Stuff body, then dec 6 times.

*when sewn onto the head the regular way

If you wish to use a cotter pin joint to attach the head, you will need:

2 hard discs diameter 12 mm [0.5 in] and 9 mm [0.35 in], and also 2 cotter pins 1.6 x 20 mm [0.06 x 0.8 in].

Photos show how to join a head to a body this way on the example of a teddy bear:



Insert both cotter pins into each other, thread a 12 mm [0.5 in] disc onto the top one, then, using round nose pliers, separate the pin halves and curl the ends down onto the disc as shown in the photo. Insert this whole assembly into the opening at the bottom of the head at the level of Round 16, threading the cotter pin through between Rounds 15 and 16. Decrease around and fasten off.

The body is worked from the top down in the round as follows:

Round 1: 6 sc into an AMR (6)

Round 2: 6 inc (12)

Round 3: 12 sc

Round 4: (1 sc, inc) 6 times (18)

Round 5: 18 sc

Here, the body is attached to the head: thread the body onto the cotter pin, insert the disc, curl the ends of the cotter pin with round nose pliers, then continue.

Round 6: (2 sc, inc) 6 times (24)

Rounds 7–8: 24 sc

Round 9: (3 sc, inc) 6 times (30)

Round 10: 30 sc

Round 11: (4 sc, inc) 6 times (36)

Round 12: 36 sc

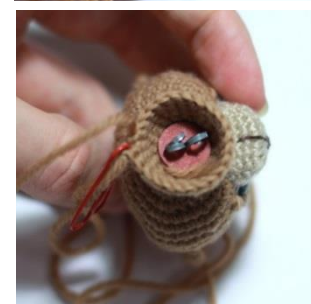
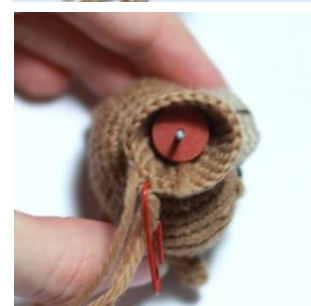
Round 13: (4 sc, dec) 6 times (30)

Round 14: (3 sc, dec) 6 times (24)

Round 15: (2 sc, dec) 6 times (18)

Round 16: (1 sc, dec) 6 times (12)

Round 17: stuff the body, dec 6 times, and fasten off.



Ears (make 2):

Round 1: 6 sc into an AMR (6)

Round 2: 6 inc (12)

Round 3: 12 sc (12)

Round 4: (3 sc, inc) 3 times (15)



Tail:

Start with grey yarn:

Round 1: 6 sc into an AMR (6)

Round 2: 6 inc (12)

Round 3: (inc, 1 sc) 6 times (18)

Round 4: 18 sc

Round 5: change yarn to black and work 18 sc

Round 6: change yarn to grey, 18 sc

Round 7: 18 sc

Round 8: with black yarn, 18 sc

Round 9: with grey yarn, 18 sc

Round 10: 18 sc

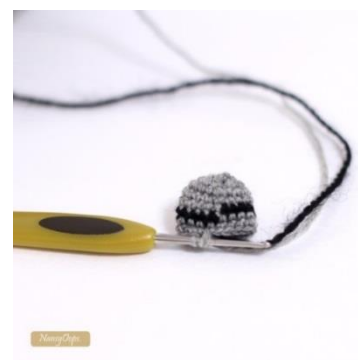
Round 11: change yarn to black, 18 sc

Rounds 12 – 13: with grey yarn, 18 sc

Round 14: (1 sc, dec) 6 times (12)

Round 15: 12 sc.

Round 16: Stuff the tail, dec 6 times



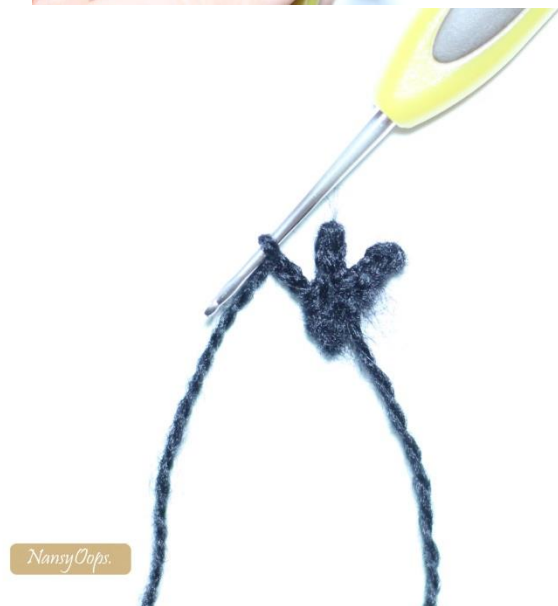
Hands (make 2):

Step 1: 4 sc into an AMR, turn piece inside out

Step 2 (making fingers): 3 ch, sl-st into 2nd chain from hook, sl-st into next stitch, then work another sl-st into the stitch from the AMR. Now, work a sl-st into the next stitch of the AMR, ch3 and repeat steps as in first hand. Work the 3rd finger the same way as the 2nd, only with the difference of working the last sc into the outermost stitch of the AMR.



Step 3: Work a sl-st into center of the AMR, 3 ch, sl-st into the second chain from the hook, sl-st into the next stitch, sl-st into the base of the first finger.



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With grey yarn:

Round 1: 6 sc into an AMR (6)

Round 2: (1 sc, 2 inc) 2 times (10)

Rounds 3 – 4: 10 sc, now is a convenient time to sew on the palm

Rounds 5 – 8: 10 sc

Round 9: slightly stuff hand, dec and fasten off.

Exit the yarn tail between Rounds 7 and 8



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Feet (make 2):

Starting with black yarn, make heels:

1. 6 ch, into the second chain from the hook, work an inc, then in the next 3 chains, work 1 sc ea, into the next chain, work 3 sc, into the remaining 4 sts, work 1 sc ea. (12)
2. (inc 2 times, 4 sc) 2 times (16)
3. 16 sc



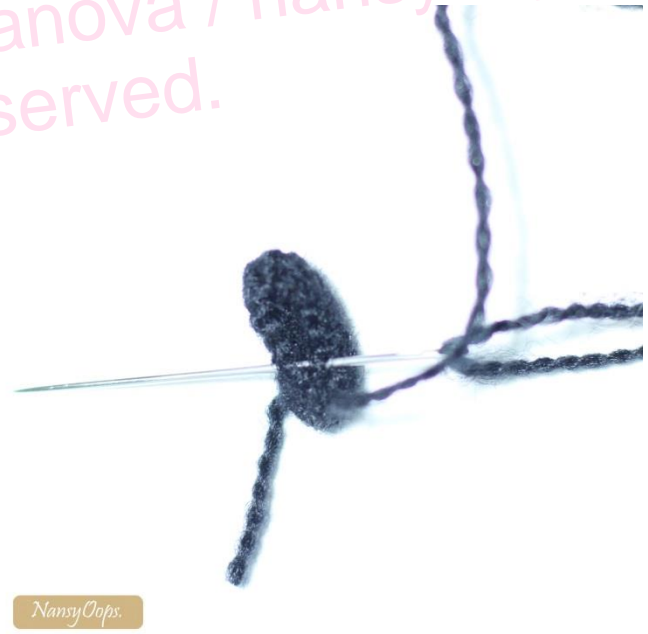


4. work 4 sc, then join with a sl-st into the first st of the round. Continue with an inc and 2 sc.



Break yarn, leaving a tail of about 25 cm [10 in] for seaming. Next, seam the foot. With accurate stitches, close the “slit” as shown in the photos:

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Hide the end on the inside, but don't stuff the foot! Now, individual toes need to be shaped. For this, make a few stitches in the vicinity of the big toe, in the correct position for the left and right foot accordingly.

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Photo shows the left foot. To form the big toe, just stitch at a right angle a few times.



It should turn out like this:



Now, take up grey yarn and work the lower leg:

Round 1: 6 sc into an AMR (6)

Round 2: 6 inc (12)

Rounds 3 – 4: 12 sc

Round 5: (3 sc, inc) 3 times (15), at this point, attach the foot.



Round 6: (4 sc, inc) 3 times (18)

Round 7: (1 sc, dec) 6 times (12), stuff the leg



Round 8: dec 6 times, fasten off. Exit the yarn tail between Rounds 5 and 6.

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Start the muzzle:

Row 1: With white yarn, crochet a chain of 6, into the second chain from the hook, make an inc, then 3 sc, into the next stitch, work 3 sc, then, into the remaining 4 sts, work 1 sc ea. (12)

Round 2: 7 sc, inc 2 times, sl-st, 2 inc (16), then 2 sl-st for an even edge.



Take up black cotton crochet thread, hold it double and begin embroidering the nose with accurate stitching. The nose should turn out not too big:



With yarn held single, embroider a stitch from the center bottom of the nose into the sl-st of the muzzle:



Secure the ends on the inside. Pin the muzzle to the head approximately between Rounds 9 and 13. Sew on around, and don't forget to stuff tightly.



Now, take up feltable wool and a felting needle. If you don't know how to needle-felt or are afraid of doing it, you can instead shade with oil pastels.

“Paint” a face for your little raccoon.



Before starting to felt, outline the position of the darker parts on the face with pencil.

Don't be afraid of producing a ragged edge, you will later embroider white “eyebrows” and even out any inaccuracies. The sample raccoon was made using a wool blend containing 90% wool for a purpose – it's much easier to felt onto blends with a high percentage of wool than, for instance, onto cotton!

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After having needle-felted the darker part of the face to the head, cinch it a little bit to create recesses for eye sockets.

The photo on the next page shows the cinching points. Attach a piece of thread near the neck and exit the needle at Point 1, then insert the needle into Point 2 and exit at the base of the head. Cinch taut, pulling with medium strength. Repeat this for the second eye socket. Exit needle at Point 3 and insert it into Point 4. Exit needle at the opening where the head will be attached, pull taut and secure the end. Done!

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Now, take up the eyes, thread a piece of sturdy thread through the eye of the shank, and flatten the shank eye with pliers:



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Sew the eyes on, shank into recessed socket. Eyes should end up approximately between Rounds 10 and 11, at a distance of about 5 sc's between them:



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Add a little bit of black wool to create the illusion of visual depth:



It is important to add the wool for shadows around the eyes in small increments at a time.



Underneath each eye, embroider a single stitch with white cotton thread:



Afterwards, with light grey yarn, felt on eyelids:





Now, the most interesting part 😊

With the same white yarn as had been used for the muzzle, embroider eyebrows for your little raccoon, in individual-stitch steps, from the top down. Start with a longer piece of yarn so you have enough for both halves of the face.



Gradually shorten stitches as shown in the photo on the next page:

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Make a few more
downward stitches at
the bridge of the nose
to round out the
eyebrows:

One half is done;
embroider the other
half the same way.



So far, all of the above should have yielded in a charmer like this one:

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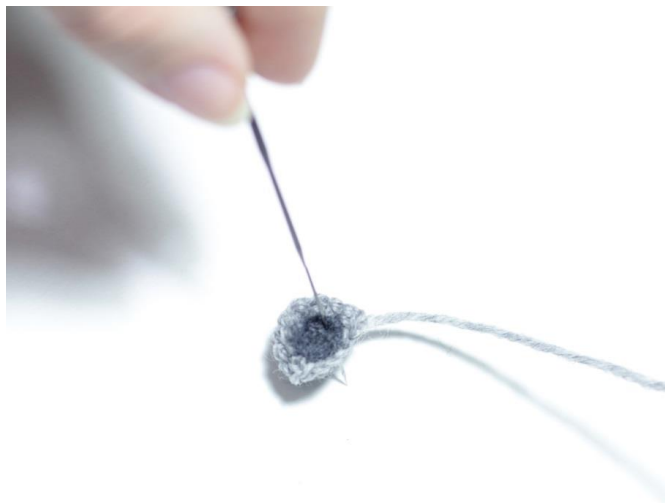
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Finishing the ears.

Take up the ears and feltable wool in dark grey, and felt it on in the center:



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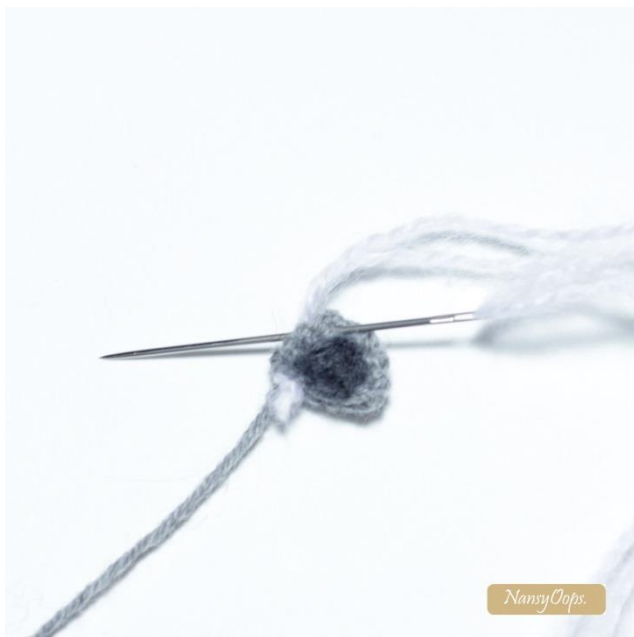


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It should now look like this:



Now, use white yarn to stitch around the outline of the ear for a life-like effect.



Since we are embroidering with mohair yarn, which is not really intended for this purpose, make sure to watch that it doesn't end up tangled or knotted, always pulling it straight after each stitch. This way, stitch around the whole outer edge of the ear (minus the base, of course).



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After the ears have been finished, pin them to the head, trying out for the best spot, and making sure they end up in a symmetrical position, approximately between Rounds 4 and 9 of the head. Sew them on for good.

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Use the grey yarn tail to sew on the back of the ear and its middle, and the white one for the sides.

Hide all excess ends, leaving out only the grey one, which will still be needed to sew the head to the body.

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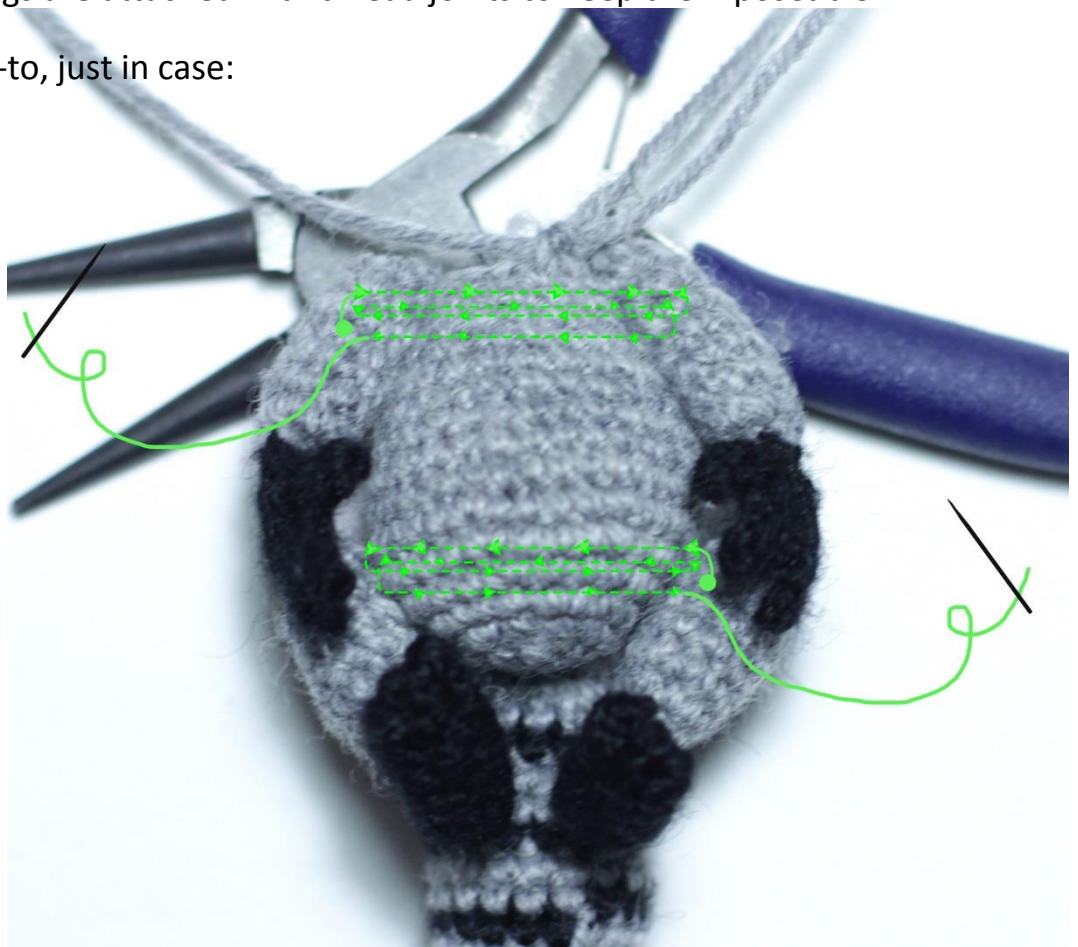


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Assembly.

Arms and legs are attached with thread joints to keep them poseable.

A little how-to, just in case:



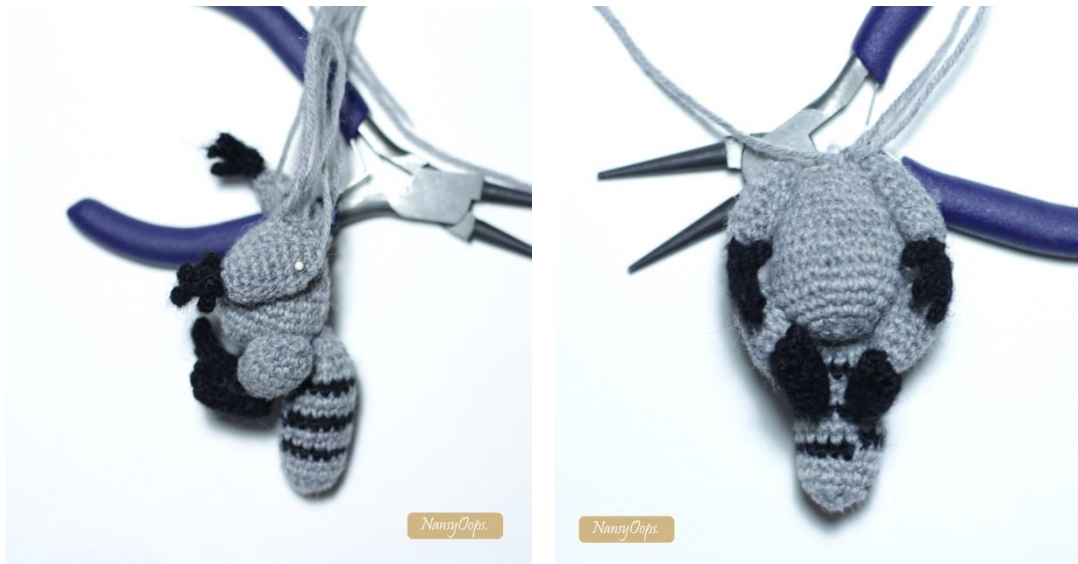
First, pin the legs in place, between Rounds 6 and 7 of the body, then sew them on.



After having attached the legs, sew on the tail.



Count down 3 rounds from the top of the body and pin the arms in place at the sides. Check for symmetry, and sew on.



Secure all ends and hide them inside the body. Pin the head in place, and sew on all around.



All that's left to do is cosmetic tinting, drawing on a subtle stripe between the eyes and – finished! You may now feel proud of yourself ☺



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I hope you liked this pattern and am looking forward to seeing photos of your finished raccoons!

Kind regards, Anastasia Kirsanova.



Bunny