



Speckled Hen Pot Holder

Free pattern courtesy of Christine Ciliberto

Hello there, I am happy to provide the directions for the Speckled Hen pot holder. I hope that you will enjoy making her as much as I enjoyed designing her. It took four tries to reach the finished pattern and though each was perfectly usable, the shape and details evolved to what you see above. So go ahead and add your own spin on the beak and comb details, as well as the scalloped tail feathers. I tried to use basic stitches to make it easy enough for a beginning crocheter.

- **Yarn:** *Lily Sugar & Cream* 100% cotton (*color of your choice*) for body. A lighter weight cotton can be used for the beak, comb and tail feathers, here I used bits of leftover *I Love This Cotton*.
- **Hook:** I used a size **8-H (5mm)** hook because the cotton was heavy and thick. You can use your preferred hook or whatever you feel best suits the yarn you are using.
- **Notions:** A small button of your choice can be used for the hen's eye. Remember to secure it to the pot holder well...you don't want it to fall unnoticed into someone's food. You will also need a large eyed, blunt needle to weave in yarn ends and sew on the button.
- **Crochet Stitches used in project:** **sl st** (slip stitch), **ch** (chain), **sc** (single crochet), **hdc** (half double crochet), **db** (double crochet), **trc** (treble crochet), and **yo** (yarn over).

Body: (make 2)

Rnd. 1: ch 4, sl st in first chain to form ring, ch 3, 11 dc in ring, sl st in top of ch 3 to close round.

Rnd. 2: ch 3, dc in first st (*at base of ch 3*), 2 dc in each st around to end (23 dc's & 1 ch 3)

DO NOT CLOSE ROUND, ch 3 and turn

Rnd. 3: dc in first st, *1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st., repeat from star to last st, 3 dc in last st, ch 3 and turn

Rnd. 4: dc in first st, *1 dc in each of next 2 st's, 2 dc in next st, repeat from star to last st, 3 dc in last st, ch 3 and turn

Rnd. 5: 2 dc in first st, 3 dc in next st, skip 1 st, sl st in next st, sc in next 4 st, hdc in next 3 st, dc in next 3 st, *2 dc in next st, dc in next 3 st's, repeat from star to last three st, 1 dc in each of last 3 st's, ch 2 and turn

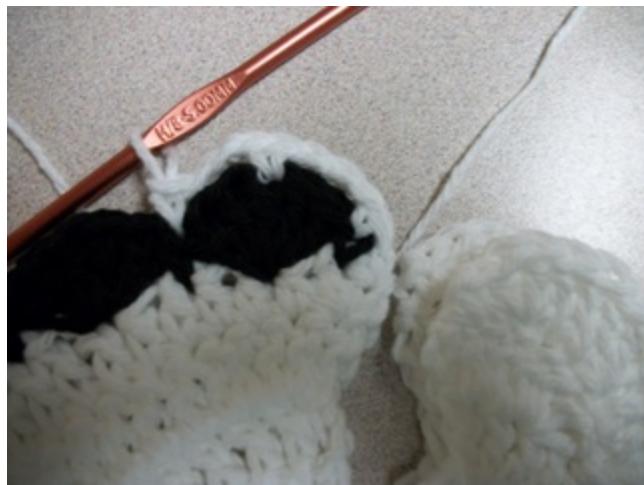
Rnd. 6: 1 hdc in first st and in each of next 4 st's, 1 dc in next 4 st's, (2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next 2 st's) twice, 2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st, 1 hdc in next 9 st's, 2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st, 3 trc in next st, 2 dc in next st, 1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st, (*you have just formed the peak at bottom of hen to mimic feet*) continue on with 1 hdc in next 10 st's, 2 hdc in next st, 1 hdc in next 7 st's, 2 hdc in next st, pull up a loop in the next two st's, yo and pull through all three loops on hook, repeat over next two st's. (*You should now be at first stitch of the hen's head*), 3 dc in the next st, 1 dc in the next 2 st's, 2 dc & 1 hdc in next st, sc in last st. End off.

Tail Feathers: Attach contrasting color in first hdc of last round, ch 1, skip one st, 5 dc in next st, skip next st, sc in next st, skip next st, 5 dc in next st...continue until you have made 6 shells, skip next st, sc in next st, end off contrasting color.

Your hen should look like this. Repeat the body again for the other side, weave in all ends and when you're finished move on to assembly directions.



Assembly: Place one hen layer on top of the other, lining up the matching stitches. Attach your joining round color (*you can use same color as body or choose a different color entirely*) below the start of the first shell for tail feathers. ch 1, sc in ch 1 of beginning of first shell, ch 3 or 4 and sc in third dc of shell group, ch 3, sc in next sc, ch 3, sc in third dc of next shell group, ch 3, sc in next single crochet, continue over remaining shells...then begin 1 sc in each st around hen



(*be sure to match stitches with under layer*) until you reach the trc group of round 6 (*which is the tip of feet section or bottom of hen*), 3 sc in the middle trc and then continue with sc around, stopping in the fifth st before the neck indentation, end off.

Beak: Attach beak color in stitch above indentation (*where neck meets head*), ch 2, dc in same st but hold back last loop, dc in next st also holding back last loop, yo and through all loops on hook. End off, weaving yarn ends through beak to make stronger.



Comb: Attach red in same stitch as top of beak, ch 1, 1 hdc in next st, 2 dc & 1 trc in next st, hdc, ch 2 in next st, 2 trc in same st, sc & ch 2 in next st, 2 trc in same st, sc & ch 2 in next st, 2 trc in same st, sc in next two st's, ending off in the last stitch at back of head.



Wattle: Attach red in last sc of joining round (which will be five stitches below beak), ch 3, trc in next st, 2 dc in next st, sc in next st, sl st in last st and end off.

Finish joining: Close up the section that remains open by attaching joining round color in last stitch of comb and sc along edge catching matching stitches from under layer. Get comfortable. This is the tricky part and just takes a little patience. I save this for last because it makes it easier to match the stitches of both layers. If you are not concerned about this you can start your joining round here instead of at the tail feathers, it will save you this last step. I've done it both ways and it works out well either way.

