
Crochet an Amigurumi Pencil with Vincent Green-Hite

Chapter 1 - Crochet an Amigurumi Pencil

Overview

- Hi, I'm Vincent, but on paper, I'm Knot Bad. I'm a crochet designer. I love making cute dolls and listening to heavy metal. In this class I'll be teaching you how to make your own pencil, as a fun reminder to keep yourself focused. You can really make this personal and play with a bunch of different colors, and it'll be really cool to even see a colored pencil set coming from your hands. In this project, we'll be working in the round and in the row. I'll also be showing you the magic ring, how to increase, and how to invisible decrease as well. There's a ton of professions such as office workers, teachers, and even crochet artists, like myself, who would find this to be a perfect gift. It's a great reminder that we're all lifelong learners in or out of the classroom.

Materials

- The materials we'll be using are size 4 worsted weight yarn in yellow, beige, pink, blue and black. A darning needle, a size 4 millimeter crochet hook, a pair of scissors, two 12 millimeter safety eyes, some stitch markers, pins, and a bunch of Poly-fil. Be sure to print out your PDF to follow along with a pattern.

Main body

- Let's begin this project with the eraser. We're going to begin with our pink yarn and using the technique, the magic ring. To start, leave the tail of your pink yarn in front of your index finger. Hold down the yarn with your thumb. Wrap around your index finger and create an X shape. Hold it down with your thumb and with your hook you're going to go underneath that very first loop. Using your hook, grab the other loop of the yarn and pull through the bottom. With your hook, you're going to grab the yarn, the working yarn. Grab that bridge right here and pull through to chain one. Pull your tail out so we have just one loop and in our loop we're going to treat it as a normal stitch and we are going to single crochet into the loop. Using our hook, insert into the loop, yarn over, pull through, yarn over and pull through both loops. The pattern calls for six single crochet into the magic ring so we will single crochet five more times. Insert your hook, yarn over and pull through. Yarn over and pull through both loops. Do this four more times for a total of six single crochet. Three, four, five and six. We will want six single crochet into loop. Let's count our stitches. One, two, three, four, five and six. With our tail, we're going to cinch our ring together, pull tight. We now have six stitches in our magic ring. To begin round two, we're going to do an entire round of increasing. To do so, insert your hook into the first stitch. Yarn over and pull through, yarn over and pull through both loops. Into that same exact stitch. We're going to single crochet once more, pull through yarn over and pull through both loops. Into the next five stitches, increase into each stitch. Into the next single crochet following stitch. Once again, single crochet into the same exact stitch. We'll continue this all the way around until the end of the round. One, two, one, two, one, two, and into our sixth stitch, we'll increase one more time. One single crochet, two single crochet. We are now done with that round. You can use your tail to pull the center more tightly. At the end of the round, we'll have 12 stitches in total. Let's count together. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve. We've added one extra stitch into each stitch going from six stitches to a total of 12. To identify the beginning and end of the round we'll be using a stitch marker. Put that in place and now we're ready

for round three. In the pattern, it calls for a single crochet followed by an increase. To do so, single crochet into the first stitch. Into the following, perform an increase. Two single crochet into the same exact stitch. We'll do that again. Single crochet followed by an increase. Continue this repetition all the way around. We're coming to the end of the round. Single crochet, take your stitch marker out and into the last stitch increase. So two single crochet. For this pattern, at the end of each round where there's an increase indicated the increase will go into the same stitch that the stitch marker was in. On your pattern you'll see the number 18 in the parenthesis. That is how many stitches you'll be left with at the end of the round will be left with 18 stitches. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18. Means we're on the right path and we can continue this kind of pattern all the way around. For the next round it calls for single crochet two increase. Just like we did before, this will look very similar, single crochet into the first stitch, single crochet into the next followed by an increase in the next stitch. I'll do that again. One single crochet, two single crochet followed by an increase in the next. Do this all the way around to the end of the round or when you reach the stitch marker. For rounds five through seven, single crochet the indicated stitch count followed by an increase in the pattern. After finishing round seven we're now about to begin round eight. We should have 42 stitches in the round. Be sure to count that to make sure we have enough. To begin round eight, we're using a new technique by working in the back loop only. Typically, you use your hook to insert through both loops, as you see, these Vs. However, for the back loop, we are going to use our hook, go downward into that back loop of the two. Yarn over, pull through, yarn over and perform a single crochet. As you see, there's a front loop which is closest to us in the back loop which will be inserting our hook is in the back. We'll continue single crocheting into each back loop all the way around. Inserting our hook from above, pulling through and single crocheting. Once again inserting our hook into the back loop, pulling through. As you can see, the front loops have been untouched and they start to create a ridge look to it. Continue single crocheting around in the back loop all the way to the stitch marker or the end of your round. It's best to go slow as it's a little difficult to find just one loop and you want to keep your tension consistent so it has the cleanest look to it. Because this is a new technique it's good to go back to make sure that we still see all these ridges to make sure we're working in the back loop only. Nearing the end of our round we'll continue single crocheting the back loop pulling out our stitch marker. Our very last stitch will also be in the back loop. Congratulations to you for doing this new technique. At our stitch marker when our round is complete and we should still be left with 42 stitches all the way around. From rounds nine through 16 we'll be single crocheting into each stitch all the way around. For these we'll be single crocheting through both loops like we were doing before. This is some of the best part of the pattern that we don't have to think about adding numbers going into certain loops or anything. All we need to worry about now is what we wanna watch on TV, what kind of music we want to listen to or if we want to call up a loved one. When working with the single crochets, you'll notice that your work will begin to work upward. As you can see with these back loops if I were to kind of flip it. Your work will naturally start to look like a ball. We'll continue the same repetition all the way until round 16. We're just about to end round 16. However, we are going to be color changing to yellow. With the very last stitch, we're going to take out the stitch marker, insert our hook like normal for a single crochet, yarn over and pull through with our last two loops. This is where we'll color change. Grabbing our yellow yarn. We'll use our hook, grab and pull through both of those last two loops and there we have our color change. We'll use our stitch marker to identify the end of the round. Working the back loops, we'll have your work naturally showing with the right side. However, if your work looks like this with the wrong side

showing you do wanna make sure you flip so the right side is showing. To continue on to round 17, we'll be doing the exact same thing in single crocheting into each stitch around until the stitch marker. Nearing the end of round 17, we'll be continuing single crocheting as we normally would. Taking our stitch marker out, we're going to single crochet into the last stitch. To begin round 18, we wanna do one quick technique of making a more seamless color change rather than inserting our hook into the normal stitch as we would, we're going to actually insert our hook into the bottom of the stitch. Insert our hook. We'll perform a normal single crochet as usual. Yarn over and pull through and we now have a single crochet. This isn't a perfect color change, and they never will be. However, this will definitely be the cleanest way to make this look working in the round. From round 18 to 27, continue single crocheting into each stitch around until round 27. With round 27 just about complete, we want to color change again and we're going to be switching to our beige yarn. Just like we did before, insert our hook into the stitch. Yarn over and pull through. Grab the beige yarn. Grab the yarn with your hook. Pull through the last two loops of your single crochet. This will look very familiar. Insert our stitch marker. We'll now single crochet into each stitch around once again. We've now reached the end of the round. Since we have our color changes we do want to just have some extra security. We wanna tug our yarn. We can cut our yellow yarn since we're not using that any longer, and we can tie these two tails together. We can do one knot and for some extra reassurance we can tie it once again. If you're like me and you forgot to do it earlier our work is still flippable and we can go back and tie our pink and yellow yarn together as well. We do wanna make sure we are cutting from the skein, pull, and now we have that secure. We can flip our work back to how it was with the right side facing outward. This is a great time to add our 12 millimeter safety eyes. Taking our safety eyes we will be inserting them into round 23. It can be difficult to count from here. Rather than counting from the very beginning, we can start from our yellow. Counting in that first round, as you see here, of complete yellow, we can count up to six. One, two, three, four, five, six. We can now insert our safety eye. We do wanna be mindful of the placement and make sure all of our color changes and everything are in the back. That way we can keep all those details hidden. Now that we're in the correct round, we're going to count nine stitches apart. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine and into the next we'll add our safety eye. We can go back and make sure our count is correct. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. With those in place, we can take the washers, and in the back, attach our safety eyes. With those connected, we can feel secure knowing that those won't come out. And before we begin crocheting again we can start stuffing our doll With Poly-fil. We'll be taking smaller chunks and pushing that in, making sure that we're filling all the edges inside of our work firmly and evenly. It might be tempting to put all this in here all at once, but that is an easy way to create lumps in your work. So we do wanna be patient and make sure we're stuffing evenly and firmly. When stuffing, you can use your hands to kind of shape your work like how I'm doing here. It's a good way to see which part of your work needs a little extra stuffing. Once we have a good majority of the pencil stuffed we can stop stuffing as we don't want it to overflow to make it difficult for us to crochet. We do wanna put our stitch marker back in and continue on to round 29. As we saw before with the color change like we see down here, we're going to insert our hook into the bottom of the first stitch and single crochet creating a cleaner color change. Continue single crocheting into each stitch round until the end of the round or the stitch marker. Now that we're done with the round we can insert our stitch marker and we can get excited for a new technique that we're going to learn. For our next round, we're going to be learning the technique, the invisible decrease. The invisible decrease allows us to bring our project together and start closing off. And it's invisible because you won't be able to see it. To do so, the pattern

indicates to do five single crochet followed by an invisible decrease. So let's do that together. Single crochet into the first stitch, into the second. Make sure we get that stitch marker out of the way. Three single crochet, four single crochet and the fifth single crochet. Following the fifth single crochet will be our invisible decrease into the next two stitches. Going from underneath, insert only into the front loop so only one loop will be on your hook. Before continuing on, use your hook to insert into the next front loop only of your following stitch. We'll now have three loops on our hook. Yarn over and pull through the first two yarn over and pull through the last two. We've now turned two stitches into only one. We'll continue this repetition all the way around and I'll show you how to do it once again. Single crochet into the next five stitches. You now have five single crochet into the next two stitches. We're going to do an invisible decrease once again. Using our hook going underneath into the front loop only the loop that's closest to you into the next stitch. Inserting our hook through the front loop only once again. Yarn over, pull through two loops, yarn over and pull through two once again. We can tell from the back that our two back loops are untouched which means we're doing the invisible decrease correctly. As you can see we can't even tell where invisible decreases are happening which is great. We'll continue this repetition all the way around single crocheting, five into each stitch followed by an invisible decrease. Four, five, followed by an invisible decrease. Continue this all the way along until the stitch marker. When we're about to do our invisible decrease, we'll take out our stitch marker and into the last two stitches. We'll insert our hook into the front loop and at the following stitch, insert into our front loop as well. Yarn over, pull through both loops yarn over and pull through the last two loops. Congratulations, you've learned the invisible decrease and you've made it this far, you must have done a great job. Into the next round. No more counting. We'll just be doing another round of single crochet. Single crochet into each stitch all the way until this stitch marker. After another easy round of single crochet in each stitch. We've now just finished around 31. Beginning around 32, put our stitch marker in place and this will look pretty familiar from an earlier round. The pattern calls for four single crochet followed by an invisible decrease. Single crochet in the first stitch and into the following three for a total of four single crochet. With our four single crochet done, we'll follow it up with an invisible decrease. Like we've done before using our hook to go into the front loop only of the first stitch and into the following. Also going into the front loop only. Left with three loops, we yarn over, pull through two, yarn over and pull through the last two. We'll continue the same repetition all the way around. Taking out our stitch marker we'll be ending the round with an invisible decrease once again, yarn over and pull through. From rounds 33 to 36 you'll be alternating between a round of single crochets and a round of invisible decreases. Follow the pattern to find the indicated stitch counts. Nearing the end of round 36 we're gonna color change one more time. Taking out our stitch marker. We're going to use our hook to do one more invisible decrease. Insert your hook into the front loop only and into the next stitch into the front loop as well. Yarn over, pull through two loops. Before we pull through the last two loops we'll take our black yarn hook and pull through the last two loops. We'll now insert our stitch marker and we can begin our new round. For the next round, single crochet all the way around until the stitch marker. Coming to the end of our round pull out our stitch marker and single crochet into the last stitch. With our beige and black yarn we can pull and tug so that we can secure that. And in the back we'll tie off our two strands of yarn so that we can secure them and not have it fall apart. Pull and pull. If you feel like you still want to continue stuffing this is a great idea to continue stuffing periodically. As the end of our pattern comes to a close, it becomes more and more difficult as the hole gets smaller. Inserting our stitch marker will begin the next round which calls for a single crochet followed by an invisible decrease. With our hook, we'll

single crochet by inserting our hook into the stitch below. After our single crochet we're going to perform another invisible decrease. This can be kind of hard with black yarn to see do your best and try to make it work. We're almost there so you only have to do this for just a little bit. Continue single crocheting and invisible decrease all the way around. We're going to invisible decrease into the last two stitches. Insert our stitch marker into the following round single crochet into each stitch, all the way into the stitch marker. Into the last stitch, single crochet. With the hole getting smaller it's a good idea to start stuffing one last time. We have one last round of invisible decrease. This time there will be no single crochet in between each visible decrease. invisible decrease into each two stitches all the way around. This is definitely gonna take some finger dexterity. An invisible decrease in the final two will now be left with six remaining stitches. If you still want to stuff, it's not too easy but you can make it happen by using the back of your hook, by pushing it in. As you can see, I'm even having kind of a hard time with this but I always want to have just a little bit more. We can pull our yarn and leaving about 10 inches. We can cut. Pull it all the way through. We definitely won't need this, not a yarn but it's always good to have more than less. With our darning needle, weave the tail through the needle and trying to identify our black stitches. We're gonna take our darning needle. We're going to insert into the front loop only of the first stitch, and we're going to go under the next front loop only of the following stitch and we're going to pull. We'll do the same thing in the last four stitches into the next two, same thing. We'll have the needle go under two loops pull through and into the last two loops. Have your needle go underneath the first one fall into the second, pull through and we now have our point with the tail, insert back in behind the safety eyes in the back of the pencil. Pull, but not too tightly we still want to have a point. We're going to now knot off insert our needle into the stitch next to the yarn. Have our needle come out the same stitch that the yarn is coming through. Pull slowly with our darning needle go through the loop pull, go back from the same stitch, come out and we can weave in one more time just for some safety measures. Pull, and with your yarn hanging out, cut. Use our darning needle to push the yarn back in. And there you have our body of our pencil.

Blue wrap

- Oh, hey, I didn't see you there. Did you know the thing that connects the wood to the eraser is actually called the ferrule. Let's make one. To begin, we're going to be starting with the technique of the slip knot. Holding our yarn with the tail in front of our two fingers, in this case, my middle and my index finger, we're going to wrap around, all the way around so it creates an X. And with this opening, we're gonna pull our yarn through, pull our two fingers out, and we're gonna pull this snug. We now have a slip knot. With our hook we're gonna go into the loop and we're gonna pull both the working yarn and the tail so it's snug on our hook. It's still kind of tight but you're still able to move it around. From here, chain four. Yarn over, pull through the loop, yarn over, pull through again, yarn over and pull through two more times. One, two, with a total of four chains. Into the third chain from the hook, single crochet. Into the fourth, single crochet once more. You can pull your slipknot a little tighter. You'll be left with two single crochet. This might not look conventional and typically people might chain three, single crochet into the second chain from the hook, and single crochet again. As long as you're reaching your two single crochet, we're on a good start. To continue, we're going to chain one. We're going to turn our work. We're going to single crochet in that first stitch. Single crochet into the following stitch as well. We now have two rows of single crochet. Once more, chain one, turn your work, single crochet into the first stitch. Single crochet into the following stitch as well. We now have three rows of single crochet. From row four to 46 continue this repetition of

chain one, turn, and single crochet into the next two stitches. When working the row, I fortunately have a trained eye, so I know what row I'm on. However, if you're not as experienced, it's good to keep notes down on paper or count in your head while working your rows. I already have all my rows complete. It is a different blue, but you're more than welcome to choose any blue you'd like. From here, with our hook, we're going to chain one and we're going to be creating the border of the ferrule. Into the first stitch of the edge we're going to single crochet. We'll now be working in stitches that aren't quite familiar for us, but you will be able to identify these very easily. Single crochet into the next stitch, which is the next opening. Crochet into the next stitch which is the next apparent opening as well. Once again, single crochet into that next opening. Continue single crocheting all the way down. As you can see so far, we have a clean border compared to the other side. This is how your work will be looking. Now that we've reached the corner of our work, into the very last corner stitch we'll perform two single crochet into the same exact stitch. One, two. This allows our work to start turning. Single crochet into the next stitch, or the opening. Into the last corner stitch, single crochet two. Our work will naturally begin to turn. Single crochet into each opening or stitch on this side as well all the way to the end. We've now completed the entire band. Into the very last stitch we're going to single crochet. You can now cut your yarn about 10 inches and pull through. We now have our complete ferrule.

Assembly

- Let's get everything together and assemble. With our ferrule or band done, we're gonna flip over on the end where we single crocheted two in the corners to turn. We're gonna take our tail with our darning needle, thread through, and we're just gonna weave this end in through the back of our stitches, just to hide. You can go through. We can weave in through just a few more just to make sure it's not gonna come out. With our scissors, we'll snip. With the end that we single crochet into, take our darning needle, thread our yarn through. Now, with our pencil, we're gonna place that in the front. We wanna have the band laid on top where the pink and the yellow meet, so in the front, but the two ends will meet in the back. As you see here we're gonna go into the stitch just across. Pull. Go into the next stitch and meet on the other side. Pull through, and you wanna be pulling tight. Once again, going through the next stitch. And into the final stitch in the corners. I'm gonna find that corner stitch. And we're gonna pull through tightly. And as for some extra security, we can take our darning needle and we can actually go through the back of the pencil. Pull. Come back out. We can do it once again. Going through the pencil, but we can come out the other side. Have our needle come out the blue again. And from here, we're going to knot off, like we've seen before. And we have our darning needle come through. Create that loop. We're gonna go through the loop. And with our darning needle, we'll go through the pencil. Back out. We can come through either the pink or the yellow, and this will be hidden since no big deal. I've pulled kind of tightly so I am gonna fluff up our work just a bit. Cut. And with the tail, we'll push in. It is now attached. Since we only secured it in the back, you're still able to move this around, which is no big deal. It won't come off. And we have our pencil. Now, we just need to add our face. With our black yarn, we want about 10 to 15 inches for the eyelash. It's more than you'll need, but it's always good to have more than less. With our darning needle, we're going from the back and we'll be coming out of the round, not the round that the safety eye is touching, but the one above. One stitch above, safety eye. Pull through. And into the bottom stitch where the safety eye is touching, insert your needle, coming out to the right if this is the right eye. If it were the left, you'd come out the left side. Come out through the stitch. Pull through. And with the darning needle, you're gonna go into the same exact stitch so both ends are

intersecting. Come out the back. And create an L-shape for the eyelash. And again, you can always fluff up your work. With two tail ends, we're gonna cut. Push our yarn in so it's not visible. And we have our first set of eyelashes done. Do the exact same process on the other side, but moving to the left. Starting the smile, we'll want another 10 inches of the black yarn. With our needle starting from the back, we'll be finding the round to insert through. Looking at the rounds where our safety eyes are in, we'll go down just one and we'll go into the center. This will be the round where the bottom of the safety eyes are lined up with. Pulling through. This is now in the center and we have a stitch count of nine across. We wanna count three on each side. One, two, three stitches. Go up one round, insert our needle and across the other way, we wanna count three again. One, two, three, and go up one round. Inserting through here. Pull through. And into the center stitch where the other half of the smile is meeting. Insert our needle and pull through. Pull slowly. And we can adjust the curve with our finger. On both sides, we'll cut. And with our darning needle, push in the ends once again. And now we have our smile. Our last detail is to add on the blush. Pulling about 15 to 20 inches of pink. All cut. Thread our pink yarn through the needle. And once again, we're going through the back and we're going to be inserting our needle underneath the safety eye, not through the round where the safety eye is touching, but the one beneath. Pulling through. On the right eye, we'll go to the right side. Insert our needle, and we're gonna come out the other end where the left eye is and go into the same round underneath the safety eye. Pull. It's always good to still fluff up your work so you get an accurate representation. With our needle, we're gonna go to the stitch to the left and we're going to double layer our blush. So we're gonna come back to the other side, have our needle come out the same stitch where the other yarn is coming through for the other blush. Pull through. Time to double layer. Insert into the same stitches. However, when we're pulling for the second layer, we wanna make sure we're going slowly to make sure that the yarn goes directly over the other yarn. Like so. Same thing for this side. Pull through and pull slowly to make sure that it's completely covering the other layer. That is now complete. Cut both sides. For our final step, push in the last remaining yarn back into the amigurumi. And we now have a face. One last measure is just to make sure we fluff everything back up. Squish with our fingers, and we're looking good. History is always written down in text. And now, we can go down in history with our own crochet pencil.