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## Crochet an Amigurumi Potted Cactus with Vincent Green-Hite

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### Chapter 1 - Crochet an Amigurumi Potted Cactus

#### Overview

(ambient music) - Hi, my name is Vincent, and when I'm crocheting, I'm not bad. My favorite things to make are crocheted plushies which is a Japanese art form called Amigurumi. Typically, you might think of crochet as an indoor activity, however, there's plenty of places you can take your crochet outdoors. When I went camping out in the desert I was able to find inspiration to make my own little cacti. This project is a great way to try a bunch of different techniques, such as the magic ring, single crochet, double crochet, as well as working in the back loop and the front loop of your work. I'll even show you how to add on cactus needles without being poked. Grab your hook, unravel your yarn and let's learn something new. (ambient music)

#### Materials

- The materials you'll need for the cactus are yarn, which we'll be using worsted weight yarn, so size four. We'll need the colors in dark brown, tan, yellow, green, white, and pink. We'll be using a four millimeter crochet hook, a darning needle, 12 millimeter safety eyes, a pair of scissors, pins, Poly-Fil to stuff our doll, and stitch markers, and be sure to print out your class PDF for the cactus pattern.

#### Pot

- We have to plant our cactus into something. We'll be working on the pot first. To begin the base of our pot, we're going to start with the technique, the magic ring. With the tail of our yarn, we're going to keep it in front of our index finger, hold it down with your thumb, wrap it around your index finger until we create this X shape. hold it down with your thumb, and with our four-millimeter crochet hook, we're going to go underneath the first loop and we're going to grab the other working yarn and pull it underneath that first loop. With the working yarn, with this bridge right here, we're going to yarn over, pull through, and chain one. You can kinda pull it to make it snug. Pull our index finger out and we'll pull the tail, so it's out of the way, and we now have our loop. We're going to treat this loop as a normal stitch and we're going to single crochet six times into it. With our hook, insert into the loop, yarn over, and pull through. Yarn over and pull through both loops. We've now done our first single crochet, and we want to do five more single crochets into this loop for a total of six single crochets. So, yarn over and pull through, and we're pulling through both loops left on the hook, with two single crochet. Let's do the next four together. Three single crochet, four single crochet, five single crochet, and six single crochet. Let's count to make sure we have six. One, two, three, four, five, and six. Once we have six, we can use our tail to cinch our work together and create a full circle. Round one is now complete. To begin round two, we're going to go into that first stitch and we're going to do a single crochet increase. With your hook, insert into the stitch and perform a single crochet. Into the same exact stitch, we're going to do another single crochet. Insert your hook, pull through, yarn over, and pull through both loops. Into all six stitches, we're going to perform an increase into each one. Into the next, single crochet, and into the same stitch, single crochet once again. We're going to do this all the way in the round into all six stitches. Once we do our last single crochet increase, we'll be left with 12 total stitches. As you'll see in the pattern, in the parentheses, we want to count to make sure we have all the single crochets needed. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight nine, 10, 11, 12. Since we've added an extra single crochet

in each stitch, we'll be doubling our stitch count, going from 6 to 12. We'll now use our stitch marker to identify where the beginning and end of our round is. Since we're working continuously, we won't need to join. Into the next round, round three, we'll be following repetition of single crochet followed by an increase. Into the first stitch, single crochet. Into the following stitch, we'll do another increase, so two single crochet in the exact same stitch. One single crochet. Two single crochet. We're going to follow this pattern all the way around, starting with a single crochet once again, followed by an increase, so two single crochet in the exact same stitch. Do this until the end of the round or when you reach the stitch marker. As we near the end of the round, we'll do our final single crochet. We'll take out our stitch marker, and into the very last stitch, we'll do an increase. When working this pattern, if the round calls for an increase, our last stitch will always been an increase where the stitch marker was. In the next round, it calls for two single crochet, followed by an increase. One single crochet in the first stitch. In the next stitch, another single crochet, and in the following, we're going to do another increase, so two single crochet in the exact same stitch. Follow that repetition all the way around until the end of the round or when you reach the stitch marker. As we near the end of the round, we're going to do our last two single crochets. One. Two. Pull out our stitch marker, find our last stitch, and we'll perform an increase, so two single crochet in the exact same stitch. Now that we're done with this round, we should have 24 stitches in total. Be sure to count to make sure we're on the right path. Beginning round five, we'll be doing three single crochets followed by an increase. We're adding one extra single crochet each round. One, two, three, and after the third single crochet, perform an increase into the next stitch. Continue this repetition all the way until the end or until you reach the stitch marker. If you've made it this far, I think you'll get the hang of it very quickly. At this point, you're probably noticing a very common theme here. From round six to eight, be sure you're adding one extra single crochet between each increase for each round. With round eight complete, we're going to be working on a new skill, and we're going to be single crocheting into the back loop only. Typically, when single crocheting, you'll be going straight forward through both of these loops as you can see with these Vs. However, working into the back loop will be going from up top, going downward, working into the back loop. Yarn over and pull through and perform a single crochet. The loop in front will be your front loop and the loop behind the front loop or facing farthest away from you is going to be considered the back loop. Single crochet into every single back loop in the round. I'll show you after a few of these how this is supposed to look. You can see here that there's a little bit of a ridge with the front loop only untouched. This is how you'll know that you're doing it correctly. Continue single crocheting in all the back loops only. It's great to take your time working the back loop, especially if you're not experienced with it, just to make sure you get your hook into all of them. I remember when I started, it was a little difficult to find how to insert my hook properly, so it does take a little bit of practice. I do know, after you finish this, though, it's a great skill to have moving forward with the rest of your crochet projects in the future. Coming up to the end of the round, we will be sure to pull out the stitch marker for the very last stitch, and into the last stitch, you still want to single crochet into the back loop only. As you can see, we have the ridge of the front loop only still exposed in the entire round. We'll be left with 48 stitches in our round, so be sure to count to make sure we have all of those. For rounds 10 through 19, this is definitely the best part of the pattern. Now, we get to just single crochet into every stitch around. We will be working through both loops, so you won't have to worry about going into only the back loop only this time. So, single crochet into the first stitch, single crochet into the second, and we'll continue single crocheting all the way in the round up until round 19. Moving on to round 20, you can see the direction of our stitches have moved upward from

when we stitched through the back loop only. This time, we're going to be using a technique of working in the front loop only. For this round, we're going to single crochet into every front loop only of each stitch around. In the first stitch, you'll see that we have both our loops. We're now accustomed to our back loop. This time, inserting our hook into the front loop only. The front loop only will be the loop facing towards you. We're familiar with the back loop only, so we know which one not to go into. Single crochet like you typically would, and we're going to single crochet into each stitch across in the front loop only. Yarn over and pull through, and I'll show you what it looks like from the back after a few stitches. As you can see, our work looks clean in the front, and in the back, our back loops have not been touched yet. Make sure that we single crochet into the front loop only all the way around, and be sure to double-check your work as well. Take your time when working in the front loop only. It can be difficult to find sometimes, and it can also be easy to forget what you're doing, since we're so used to working through both loops. When working in the front loop, you'll notice that we are working from the bottom upward into the loop, in contrast to what we were doing with the back loop only, when we were going down through it from above. We're just about finished with our entire round of single crochet in the front loop only. Pull out your stitch marker or find the end of your round and single crochet in the front loop only in the last stitch. You've now crocheted with your new technique of working in the front loop only. Congratulations for being able to work in both of those loops in a different way. For the next three rounds, we're going to be single crocheting into both loops and performing a normal single crochet in each stitch around. We're just about complete with round 23. Take out your stitch marker. Slip stitch into the very last stitch. So, insert our hook, yarn over, pull through the first loop, and continue pulling through the active loop. Once you're done there, we can take our scissors and cut our tail. Pull through and you're done with that. The reason why we worked in the front loop only is we wanted to give our pot a little bit more dimension, so, that way, you're able to flip up to where it was, working in the front loop. And now we have our pot. We do want to insert our safety eyes. We're going to insert into round 14. A great way to find the round to insert our safety eyes is counting from our back loops only round. So, from here, we'll count one, two, three, four, five, six. Insert our safety eye. We wanna make sure we're actually on the opposite side of where our tail is from where each round began and ended. Our safety eye is now into round 14. We are using the quick cheat code to find it six rounds up from our back loop only. So let's count again just to make sure. one, two, three, four, five, six. It looks like that is the correct round. We wanna make sure our safety eyes are nine stitches apart, so we can count one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. And into the following stitch, we'll insert our safety eye. Just to double-check to make sure our eyes are nine stitches apart, we're gonna be finding those tiny holes. So, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, and nine. When we're feeling confident about that, we can look inside of our work. We can use the washer to securely fasten our safety eyes. And there we have the main body of our pot. Our tail can be left inside. You can cut, but we can also use some of this yarn as stuffing for when we stuff our doll.

### Soil

- Our pot needs soil, so let's make some. This will feel very familiar. We're going to be using the technique of the magic ring once again. So using our brown yarn, will keep the tail on the front of the index finger, wrap around. Keep going through our loops. Making our chain, pulling our tail out of the way of the loop. We're going to be doing another six single crochet into the loop. Into your hook. And there's our first single crochet. We'll do five more for a total of six single crochet. Six. Just

wanna make sure we have six single crochets. One, two, three, four, five, six. To begin round two, we're going to do an increase into every stitch around. Insert your hook into the first stitch. Single crochet, and single crochet once more in that same exact stitch. We're going to increase into the next five stitches all the way around. To end round two, we will be left with 12 stitches. We'll count to make sure we have those. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight nine, 10, 11, 12. Means we're doing it correctly. Put our stitch marker in to make sure we know where we're at. To begin round three, we're going to be doing a single crochet followed by an increase. Single crochet into the first stitch, increase into the next. We will continue this repetition all the way around until the end of the round or the stitch marker. This will look identical through rounds one through eight, that we just did with the pot. Finishing up our round, we'll single crochet, pull out our stitch marker, and we'll increase into the final stitch. Our round is now complete. Beginning round four, you may have guessed it, we will be doing two single crochet followed by an increase. This looks exactly identical as the pot, so we will meet you at the end of round eight. With round eight complete, we'll be left with 48 stitches. For round nine, we're going to single crochet into every stitch going around until the end of the round, or when you reach the stitch marker. This is the last round and the soil's just about complete. I'm excited to be able to plant our cacti together. Finishing off round nine, pull out our stitch marker, and we will be slip stitching into the final stitch. Yarn over, pull through into loop, and continue pulling through the active loop. Trim your yarn and be sure to leave a generous amount of length so you can sew on the soil. With the tail on the back, you can cut this, with just a tiny bit of length, and this will be hidden. Ayy.

#### Large and small cacti

- We're going to be planting two cacti. Let's start with the big one. I've already finished rounds one through four, because it's identical to the past two chapters. Starting with round five, we're going to be crocheting single crochets into each stitch around, all the way into the end of the round, or to the stitch marker. We're going to be single crocheting into every stitch from rounds five to 15. I love these moments in crochet where you don't have to focus on the stitch count or anything. It's the best time to call up a friend, watch TV, listen to music, or do anything that lets your mind kind of wander. I love being able to just think sometimes. A lot of people see crochet as a therapeutic craft, so if you wanna practice mindfulness this is a great time to do it. Taking out your stitch marker, we've now completed round five, which was super easy, being able to just single crochet without giving anything else a thought. I hope you're enjoying yourself during this meditative time. For round six through 15, we're going to continue single crocheting in each stitch around. I've just finished round eight, and we have a little bowl shape. However, the wrong side of our work is facing outward. We do wanna make sure we flip our work, so that way the right side is facing out. You can tell, 'cause our stitches are a bit more pronounced, and our tail is on the inside. Continue working your single crochets until round 15. Into the last stitch, we are going to slip stitch, yarn over, pull through and pull through the active loop. We do wanna leave a generous amount of length on our tail, just so we can sew onto the body. We'll pull that through. Now that we have our first cactus, we can start stuffing with Poly-Fil. We wanna make sure that we're not putting it all in at once. Continue adding Poly-Fil until stuffed firmly. And there's our first cactus. I've gone ahead and finished the small cactus. Both the big and small are worked up very similarly. For rounds one through three of the small cactus is worked exactly the same as the big cactus. From rounds four to nine, they are single crocheted in the round all the way through. Be sure to flip your work and stuff firmly.

## Flowers

- As our crochet skills start to bloom, so will our cactus. Let's make some flowers. With our pink yarn, we're going to wrap around the index finger to create our magic ring as we've done before. Chain one. For our flowers to bloom, we will only be doing five single crochet into the magic ring. So into this loop we'll insert our hook and perform a single crochet. One single crochet all the way up till five. Two, three, four. And for our fifth single crochet, this is where we will be switching color. So with our fifth single crochet insert your hook, yarn over, pull through. And before we pull through those last two loops, we're going to take our yellow yarn. And we are going to pull through. It can be a little awkward. There's not a whole lot of tension here so it can be kind of loose. We're going to cinch up regardless. So pull your tail to cinch up our magic ring. With the tail of our pink yarn, we can pull that snug now that we have our ring, finding our working yarn. We will have a lot of tails to deal with so be sure to keep those out of the way. Now that we're here with our five single crochet we can count those together, one, two, three, four, five. Into the first stitch of the next round, we're going to perform a slip stitch. Inserting our hook in that first stitch, yarn over, pull through and proceed to pull through the active loop. With our slip stitch completed, we'll now do two chains. To do so, we're going to yarn over and pull through the loop. Yarn over once again and pull through the loop. With our two chains in place, we're now going to do a double crochet into the same exact stitch where our slip stitch is. To perform a double crochet, yarn over, insert into that same exact stitch. Yarn over once again, pull through. We're now left with three loops. Yarn over, pull through the first two loops. Yarn over, and pull through the last two loops. And there is your double crochet. We're going to perform two more double crochet into the same exact stitch with a total of three double crochet. Insert your hook, yarn over. Yarn over and pull through two loops. Yarn over and pull through the last two loops. We're going to do one more double crochet into the same exact stitch. This stitch is going to be quite busy, so do your best to try to fit it all into one. Yarn over, pull through. Yarn over, pull through two loops. Yarn over and pull through the last two loops. Congratulations, you have your first petal. Into the next stitch, we'll perform a slip stitch once again. Insert your hook, yarn over, and continue pulling through your active loop. Once again, we're going to chain two, one, two into the same exact stitch. We'll perform three more double crochet. Always be sure with your double crochet to be yarning over before you insert your hook into the stitch, which is different than what we were doing with our single crochet. There's our second double crochet. And for our last double crochet into the stitch. Insert our hook, pull through. Yarn over, pull through two loops. Yarn over and pull through the next two loops. We're going to continue this repetition all the way around. Our stitches will start to get a little hidden since we're doing so many double crochets, however we can see our pink stitch that we want to insert our slip stitch into. Slip stitch into the next stitch. Yarn over and pull through the active loop. Chain two and perform three double crochets into the same stitch. At this point, it'll probably start feeling much more comfortable. Two double crochet. And there's our third double crochet. You can start to see the shape forming. Into the next stitch, we're going to slip stitch. Chain two and double crochet into the same exact stitch. Into our very last pink stitch, insert our hook, yarn over and pull through to do a slip stitch. Chain two and we'll do our last sequence of three double crochet. We have one more leftover yellow stitch. Into that, we're going to do a slip stitch. Pull through. We now have our flower. We're going to pull the tail, and then we're going to cut our yarn. We wanna leave about 10 inches. It's pretty generous, but it's better to have more than less. Cut and pull through. We are left with a bunch of tails on the back. We wanna make sure we're cutting our pink yarn from the skein. And with all of our yarn in the back, we can just tug to make sure it's secure. With the pink and the



yellow yarn, we can just tie it to create a knot, just to make sure it doesn't come loose. And then we can double knot if you wanna make sure that we're not stressing too hard. Just like so. And from here, we will cut. We can leave a little bit of length since this will be hidden. We want to keep our tail that we'll use to sew. And there we have it, our first flower. I've gone ahead and made another flower for myself as well. I've alternated between pink and yellow to yellow to pink; however, you can choose any color combination that you want.

### Assembly

- Fortunately for us, we don't need a green thumb to plant our cactus. Let's start with adding the soil. With all of our loose tails with the pot, we can leave those all inside. We want to find the side opposite of the eyes where our round started and ended. We will be sewing into those back loops that were left when we were working in the front loop only. We wanna make sure our soil is facing upward where we have our stitches a bit more pronounced. This is the back end, kind of flat and where our tail was. With our darning needle, we're going to be inserting into that first loop from front to back, pulling through once again, making sure our soil is facing upward. And with our darning needle, we'll go into the next loop and we'll insert our hook into the next stitch on our soil, pulling that tight. With our darning needle into the next stitch, we'll go through the next loop. We'll be following this repetition all the way around. And don't worry about these tan loops being exposed, once we flip our soil upward, they will be hidden. Back into the stitch, starting from the stitch going into the next loop where it's lined up, and we'll be following this all the way through until about two thirds of us being done, and then I'll show you how to stuff our work. This part of the pattern, it's pretty easy to kind of get into the groove of it and once you're into the groove, it'll go by in no time. Now that we're about two thirds of the way sewing along, this is a great time to start stuffing our work. And when we start stuffing our work, you might be worried about these loops. However, when you do flip your work like so, they do start to get hidden. And when we start stuffing our work, this will start to inflate, so don't worry about those. It might be your first instinct to just shove all of this in at once. However, we do want to use smaller chunks and start stuffing this way. This allows us to stuff more evenly and have a less lumpy final product. So we'll take our time with this, being patient and doing our best to fill around the edges and making sure it's not too lumpy. Unless lumpy is a look that you like, and if it turns out that way, it'll still be a beautiful piece of work. So you really have to get in there, making sure all the sides are evenly dispersed. I'm happy with how this is starting to look. I'm gonna start finishing it off with our sewing. One could say that this is "sew" cute. If you're like me, I did not give enough length to the tail to sew this on. I'm going to show you how to attach a new strand of yarn so we can finish our sewing with the strand. That's about done. We're gonna pull and we're going to knot off a little early. So we're going to go back into a stitch. We can go back into the previous stitch and in the back of our soil, we're gonna pull through, and we're going to knot off. With the stitch that our yarn's coming out of, we're going to go into the stitch next to it and with our darning needle, we're gonna come out of this same stitch that our yarn is coming out of. You wanna pull slowly. We're left with a loop, insert our needle through the loop, pull, back in that same stitch, and pull. With the last remaining bit of our yarn, we can weave through one more time. And it's a good thing we did this because this is very short. And if this happens to you, this is actually called playing a game of yarn chicken. It's inevitable. Hopefully you don't ever have to endure it. We're going to push the remaining tail into our work after cutting, making sure it's not too long. With a new strand of our brown yarn, cut. We're going to thread with our darning needle. With the stitch that we left off at, we're going to insert our new thread of yarn,

pull through, making sure that this isn't too long. Back in that same stitch that we just did coming back through, and we're gonna pull slowly so that way we have a loop. And with our needle, we're going to pull through the loop. We're gonna pull tight. That way we can attach our new yarn, go back in that same stitch and we're gonna come out the back end of our soil. And we're just gonna go through one more just to secure. Cut and we're gonna push that end in. And that way, we have a new fresh tail, we can continue sewing into the back loop and through our stitches. Into the next stitch, we're going to go up through the next loop. Into the next loop, we're gonna go back through the next stitch. If you feel like your work isn't as firmly stuffed as you would like, this is also a good time to get the last minute stuffing in, which I'm going to actually do myself. This is feeling a lot better to me. To finish off our work, we're going to sew on into the rest of the stitches and loops just like we've been doing before. And if you feel like there's too much Poly-Fil involved, you can always go back with a pair of tweezers or even just manually with your fingers and pull that away. It's usually not an issue, but when working with darker yarn, it definitely starts to show. All right, into the final stitch and loop, pull through. And we can actually go back in that first loop and stitch that I've already been worked into. We're gonna come to the back of the soil that's away from the eyes to keep it hidden, pull. And we'll do what we've been doing with our tails and we're going to knot off. Going to that same stitch, we're gonna pull through, go through the loop, secure, come out through the back, and if you want, we can go through one more stitch to weave through just for some extra security, pull. We can now cut, leaving a little bit of length and with the remaining yarn, we can push into the soil. All we need to do now is add our cactus and flowers. With our large and small cactus, we're going to be attaching to the top. Since our soil is rounded, our cacti aren't going to be straight up, it will be angled just a little bit. I'm going to pin on, just so I can get an idea of what this is going to look like. With my small cactus, you can have them separated. I do like to have them touching, so we're going to do that, make sure it's touching each other. And we do wanna make sure that our tails are in the back. And I see that there's a little too much space on my right, so I can, I have all that and change the position, and having them meet in the middle and touching is exactly where I want them to be. So I can take the smaller one out and I'm going to sew on the larger cactus first just because this is gonna be the most stitches to sew on, so we'll tackle that first. On the back, we'll use the tail and we will thread through our darning needle. And with this, we'll hold into place and we'll be going to the stitch right below where our tail starts, pull through. And with our darning needle, we'll go back up into the next stitch. Pull tightly, that way the beginning of the tail is now hidden. Going back down into the next stitch, we'll go in back through the soil, pull through. Going upward, we'll go back into the stitch. We'll continue sewing like this all the way around until we meet to the end. I'm using the smaller piece to gauge that the piece I'm sewing on is in the correct position. As I continue to work, I notice that my stitches look a little strained which means I probably inserted my needle into a stitch that's too far out. I'm going to pull some of my sewing work apart, and it's not too bad. It's really easy to forgive yourself for this. It's easy to go back. So I'm gonna pull this. I do want my work looking quality. So right here, this is where I kind of notice where I went wrong. It would typically sit like this, but this stitch is a little too far out, so I want to come back underneath. And sometimes when you're pulling out, your yarn can start to split, so it's good to just cut so you have a fresh new end to thread through your needle. Since I'm down below, I do want to go into a stitch that's a little bit closer. I can tell where I came out of 'cause there's some Poly-Fil left, so I do want to go underneath it. And I can already tell that my stitches look a lot more cohesive all the way around and it doesn't look as strained. It was definitely worth taking those extra few minutes to do so. As I only have a few more stitches to sew in, this is a good

time to add any extra Poly-Fil if you're not completely happy with how firmly stuffed your cactus is. So be sure to add that if you're not feeling the best. And this looks good to me, so I can feel confident to finish this off. When you sew into your final stitch, you can come back at the same stitch where you began. And with our green tail, into the cactus once again, making sure we're in the back so it's hidden. And we're going to knot off to secure. Weave in one more time. Take our scissors, cut, and we can push that in. And there's our first cactus. And since we are gauging with our smaller one, we know that this will be even easier when we attach this. Now that you've sewn on your first cactus, you're pretty much a professional now. We're going to do the exact same thing, attaching our smaller cactus. We're to the point where both of our cacti are intersecting. When sewing, we'll insert our needle into the soil, you can either go into the stitches that are right next to it or if you really want it to touch like I like, we can actually go underneath into the same stitches that the large cactus was sewn into. Notice how my sewing needle is coming out from underneath. It's coming outta the same exact stitch. There's nothing wrong with doing so. Pull. Go back in and we'll continue just going through. So once again, our needle is coming out of that same stitch that the large cactus is in. We're out of the thick of it in this area, we are going to continue sewing on like we normally would. Be sure to stuff periodically while doing so. Now that my cacti is sewn on, it's easy to sometimes pull a little too tight or your thumbs pushing into the soil, you can inflate any part of your pattern by using the darning needle to kind of come underneath the stitches and push up. There we go. Looking much better and lively. I noticed another part back here, and it looks a lot better. We're now ready to add some flowers onto our cactus. Starting off with the yellow one, as you see, we have our tails still attached. We do wanna be sewing from the center, so with our darning needle, we're going to take our tail, thread through the needle. Into the back of the stitch, we're going to weave through to the center, pull. And this actually allows us to have a little bit more definition with our pedals. And with this, we're gonna find a place to attach to our cactus. For this pattern, we're gonna put it right in the center here, like so, kind of covering that middle area. You can pin just to keep in place. And with our yarn, we're gonna find a place on our cactus, pull our needle through, pull. We're going to seam right back into the flower, coming out like so. Pulling, take the pin out. We're gonna go back into the cactus to secure a little bit more. And we wanna make sure that our flower is on tightly, so we're gonna come out to the bottom of the cactus to secure in a different part of the flower. We're gonna weave in through the bottom, just through the back of the stitches, so it's not visible in the front. We're gonna pull and our flower should be feeling pretty good in place. I'm just kind of fluffing up the pedals just in case that they've been pulled a little too hard. And since our yarns going to be hidden in the back, we can actually knot off in the back. Pulling through, we're going to create that loop going back in that same stitch to knot off. And we have this loop, pull through, knot off. Go back through the stitch and go through a stitch that is still hidden behind the flower, pull. And then we can cut. Sometimes with crochet, there's a lot of tails involved and it can't always look too pretty. But fortunately we always have the ability to hide our yarn tails. And there we have it. The first flower is now in place. We're going to do the exact same thing with our pink flower, but we're gonna have it above up here on the other cactus. Feel free to choose any placement that you would like.

### Details

- Now that we've added our flowers, we're going to add our cactus needles. With our white yarn, we'll take about 10 inches. Cut. We'll take our white yarn and you can choose any placement you want for your cactus needles. You can choose how many you want and where. Finding a stitch that



looks good to you, we're gonna take our hook insert, and come back out. Another stitch, just like so. Taking our white yarn, I'm gonna latch. We're gonna pull through. We're gonna yarn over both of those strands of yarn and we're gonna pull through. Pull. And you want to pull this tightly so it's snug. And then with some scissors keep a little bit of length and we'll cut. You have your first little cactus needle. I do want to give you a disclaimer. This will fall out a little easy with some rough play. So this is definitely more of a decorative doll rather than a play doll. Keep that in mind if children get a hold of it. I'm randomly picking where to insert our cactus needles. No rhyme or reason, just where I think looks best. This is a great time to kind of personalize your cactus however you want. Notice how some of the cactus needles are differing in length. That is totally acceptable as well. (upbeat music) Our cactus needles have added so much flare to our doll. If we have any leftover strands or anything, we do wanna make sure we're tucking those into our work. I still have one from the pot. So to get rid of this, gonna pull through and then we're actually just gonna weave through the back of these stitches. And then we'll go back underneath and we can cut. And since our work is flipped, it'll stay hidden. And we're now going to do the last portion of our doll and adding some character to the face. We'll grab our black and pink yarn. Starting with the black yarn, we'll cut about 10 inches as well. Using this, we'll insert our needle more so towards the back to keep it hidden. With the round that the eye is touching we're gonna go up one. Pull. Into the stitch that the eye is touching. We're gonna go in with our needle and we're going to come out one stitch to the right. If you were working on the left eye you'd come out one stitch to the left. Pull through. And with this remaining tail, we're going to go right back into the same stitch that we just came out of. And this will be creating an L shape. And there's our first eyelash. Cutting our tails. Just gonna cut just a little bit more. Use our darning needle to push through. I think that's hidden. Do the exact same process for the other eye as well. Both eyes are done. Added some mascara onto our eyelashes. We're now going to use our darning needle to add our smile on. Again, we're going from the back inserting to the face. As you see, our safety eyes are going through this round. With the bottom of the safety eyes we have another round, and we're going to go into that same round where the bottom of the safety eyes are located on. And since our stitch count is nine stitches apart from each eye, we're gonna go into the center. Pull out. And from both sides we're gonna count three stitches. So to our right, we're going to count one, two, three. Go up one round and insert your needle. And to the left, we're going to count three as well. One, two, three and up one. Pull snug. Use your darning needle to go into the same stitch where the other half of the smile is at. Pull your needle through the side or the back of your work so it's hidden. Pull snug, not too tight. You can use your fingers to kind of make it more curved. And then cut the yarn on both sides and push the tails in with your darning needle. And with your darning needle you can always fluff up your work. And there's our smile. One last detail is now going to be the blush. I'm gonna take about 15, 20 inches of the blush. So we'll be going back and forth with this. With the pink yarn, we'll thread through the needle. And as you can probably guess, we're coming out from the side or the back. And we're gonna insert our needle not into the round where our safety eye is touching but into the round underneath. Underneath the eye, we're gonna pull through. Insert our needle into the stitch to the right of the yarn. Take our needle and come out on the same round underneath the other safety eye. We're gonna push. We're gonna pull. And we're gonna insert to the left. We want to make the blush just a little bit more noticeable so we're going to double layer. Taking our darning needle. We're gonna come to the other side once again. Pull. Insert your needle in the exact same way and coming out into the exact same other stitch. We're going to pull and we're gonna pull slowly. Wanna make sure that our second strand of yarn is laying on top of the first. Pulling. And now we've doubled the thickness. Exact same thing on

the left side, going over, pulling slowly to make sure that our yarn is laying on top. And we can fluff it up. And now with both ends, we can cut. And we're gonna push the end of the yarn back into our work. And we're done. So cute. If you struggle keeping your plants alive, this crochet version is a great substitute. However, if you do have a green thumb adding some more plants is never a bad idea.