
Crocheted Beanbag Frog with Lily Pads with Megan Kreiner

Chapter 1 - Crocheted Frog

Overview

(gentle upbeat music) - Hi, I'm Megan Kreiner, and I'm the author of the books *Crochet a Zoo* and *Bathtime Buddies*. And for this tutorial, we'll be making a bean bag frog toss game with lily pads. For this project, we're gonna be utilizing fairly simple crochet stitches such as single crochet, half double crochet, and double crochet. We'll be working our pieces in the round. And once we've stuffed our frog with dried beans, we'll seam everything up using a simple whip stitch. This pattern is really easy to customize. You can make frogs with any color you like. And once you have a nice group together, this is a really great, fun family game to play outside with kids of all ages.

Materials

- The materials we'll be needing for this project are as follows. We'll be using a worsted weight yarn, in cotton. This one is *Crème de la Crème*. We'll be needing 50 yards of green, about 25 yards of linen color, 5 yards of yellow for the eyes, and about 2 yards of black for the pupils. For stuffing, we're gonna be using dried beans, about a cup will do it. You want beans that are pinto or larger. Larger beans, around kidney size, are pretty good because you don't want the beans slipping through the holes in the crochet. We'll be using a G hook, that's a four millimeter hook. A tapestry needle, to sew all our pieces together. Scissors, we'll also be using a slip ring style stitch marker to mark the beginning and end of our rounds and to hold our pieces together while we sew them together.

Frog body

- We'll start our frog by doing the body section first, and then moving to the arms and eyes. To begin the body, we'll do the top part first by starting with a chain 10, and then working around the chain. We'll repeat this on the bottom using a contrasting color. With our green color, make a slip knot and then proceed to chain 10. Once you have your 10 chain, turn your chain and locate the back ridge loops. We'll be working with these first. Starting in the second chain from your hook, one, two, turn the chain, locate your back ridge loop and single crochet eight. After you've completed your eight single crochet, we'll do three single crochet in the back ridge loop of the last chain. Go ahead and turn your chain so that you're able to see the front loops. Starting in the next chain, which is basically next to the slip knot, which is here, begin single crocheting working down the chain. Proceed to do seven single crochet. Once you reach the end of the chain, single crochet two in the last space. You've now completed round one. Go ahead and mark your last stitch with your slip ring. Now that we have our 20 stitches for round one, we can continue onto round two. We'll be starting round two off with two half double crochets and the next stitch, followed by four half double crochets. For the next three rounds it's really important to follow along with the pattern 'cause it's going to be quite a mix between half double crochets, and single crochets, and slip stitches to get the proper shaping for your frog body. So, we'll be finishing up round two with two half double crochets in the last two stitches and using our stitch marker as reference, we can see that we're currently right on track with the pattern. Now, we can continue with the pattern for round three and four. Once we've finished up round four, we'll have 50 stitches going around the body. Now, we can proceed onto round five. And round five will just be single crochets all the way around

until we hit our stitch marker again. Once we get to the end of this round, we'll secure with a slip stitch and fasten off. You can leave the tail fairly long to use it for sewing when we join the top and bottom body pieces together. Here's the top of our body. Go ahead and make the second part of the body using your contrasting color for the belly. For my little frog, I'm gonna be using this nice linen color but pinks and yellows also work really nicely as well.

Arms and legs

- Now that our body pieces are done, we can move on to the arms and then the legs. To start the arms we're going to be creating a chain and then joining it with a slip stitch to make a ring. And that's what we'll work in. Begin with a slipknot and loosely chain six. To join your ring, insert your hook into the back ridge loop of the first chain, yarn over, and pull that yarn through. You can now proceed to work in the rest of the back ridge loops. Here they are, right here. And we'll be doing six single crochet. You can count your stitches from the top, just to make sure you have enough. One, two, three, four, five, and six. This guy right here. So we'll be working in this stitch next for round two. For round two, we'll be doing a single crochet and then we'll do a decrease of single crochet two together. For the single crochet two together, for toys, I like doing a certain type of single crochet two together that involves putting your hook under the front loops of the next two stitches, yarning over, and then drawing that yarn through these front loops and then once more through the two loops on your hook. Doing it this way alleviates the hole that is usually caused when you do a normal single crochet two. Just for demonstration purposes, I'll go ahead and do a single crochet two that would be more standard. Drawing the yarn through one stitch and then two and then drawing yarn through all three loops. So this would be more of a standard single crochet two. But to help keep those stitches a little closer together, just go ahead and bring your hook through the first two front loops and then yarn over and bring through the last two loops on your hook. And repeat, single crochet. And then do another single crochet two together, bring the hook through the first front loop and the second front loop, draw your yarn through, and then yarn over and bring your yarn through again. So we now have four single crochet. One, two, three, four. You may find it's gonna get a little tight. But do your best and try to work loosely for rounds three and four. One, oop. Two, three, four. One more round. One, two, three, four. For round five, we're gonna go ahead and have a couple of increases. So work one single crochet. And then two single crochet in the next stitch. One, two. Another single crochet. Increase, one, two, for six stitches. One, two, three, four, five, six. And then finally, for the fingers, we'll be doing a single crochet followed by a chain five. Two, three, four, five. And counting back from the hook, we'll start on the second chain from the hook. One, two. And working in this back ridge loop we'll do three single crochet and then proceed to slip stitch in the next three back ridge loops. Go ahead and single crochet in the next stitch. And repeat this process. Slip stitch three. One, two, three. Let's do our last finger. Single crochet one, one, two, three, four, five, chain. Starting in the second chain from the hook, one, two, turn your chain to find the back ridge loop. Single crochet three in that loop. And then slip stitch three in the remaining back ridge loops of that chain. We have three more stitches to work in, so just do three slip stitches to finish out the hand. We've done our three slip stitches. Go ahead and cut the yarn. And you have a little frog hand. Now, to finish off the hand, to close the hole in the palm of the hand, go ahead and load up your tapestry needle. And this isn't going to be terribly exact. It's not necessary to be all that exact. We just want to close that hole up. So go ahead and just put a few running stitches going in and out of the hand couple of times. Just to clean up that little hole. Then go ahead and fasten that yarn off. And drop through the arm. And we'll leave this yarn tail intact.

We can use it later to attach the arm to the body. Once you've finished one little hand, go ahead and make a second one. And now we can go ahead and make our legs. We'll begin the left leg much like we began our arms, by chaining 12 stitches this time. We'll then join this chain with a slip stitch. Turn your chain so that you can see your back ridge loops. Go ahead and insert your hook into the last chain. Yarn over, and draw that yarn through both of those loops. You might, you have to give your chain a little bit of a twist, just to make sure those front loops are all oriented the same way before you proceed. So looking at the back of the chain, let's find that first back ridge loop, right here. Proceed to single crochet in each of them. So this should give us 12 stitches total for round one. Three. And 11, and one more. If it helps, you can also count backwards from your hook. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11. And that 12th stitch is usually a little on the tight side, but there it is right there. So we'll be working two more rounds of 12. Now I'm gonna put a slip ring in here just to mark the end of my round. So we'll work two more rounds. Finishing up on round three. Proceed on to round four. For round four, we'll be doing a decrease. We'll do single crochet two. And then we'll do our special single, single crochet two together, working through the front loops. One, front loop of the second stitch. Yarn over and draw your yarn through. So you have two loops on your hook. And then yarn over and proceed to work through those two loops. Repeat. One, two, and through the front loops. Yarn over and draw through. Yarn over and draw through those two loops. And then one more time. Just remove our stitch marker. All right, and we should now have nine. And now proceed to work these nine single crochet for rounds five and six. So we're coming up to the end of round six. And we'll be working a couple more decreases. This time we'll be doing a single crochet one and then a single crochet two together. So single crochet one, front loop, front loop. Yarn over and draw through. Yarn over, draw through the next two. Single crochet. Front loop, front loop. Decrease, and then one more time, single crochet. Front loop, front loop. Yarn over and through, yarn over and through. At this point, we're gonna have six stitches in our round. Let's count, one, two, three, four, five, six. And it will start getting a little tight. But just try to work as loosely as possible. For our next round, we're actually gonna be working some half double crochets and double crochets into our rounds to create a knee bend. Since I'm only working in six stitches, I'm actually gonna remove my slip marker for these next two rounds, just to make it a little less complicated. So we'll count back six, one, two, three, four, five, six, just to make sure we know where we're going. Proceed to slip stitch two. And then we'll do a half double crochet. Two double crochet. And the half double crochet. And then we'll repeat. You'll wanna try to work your slip stitches as loosely as possible, or else they are going to get really tight to work in, really quickly. Here's our two slip stitches again. And again, it's pretty normal for them to get a little on the tight side, so just be aware. Okay, and then we'll work our half double crochet. Our two double crochets. And our half double crochet again. And as you can see, this is creating a bit of a bend for us. So now when we keep working the leg, we'll have this nice knee shape. Now we can proceed on to round 10. So for round 10, we're actually going to skip the first two stitches. And this is gonna make it a little on the tight side, but just try to work as loosely as you can. We're gonna skip the first two slip stitches and proceed to single crochet four. Skip one, two. And trying to work as loosely as possible. It's going to be a little on the tight side. One, two, three, and four. Go ahead and work rounds 11 and 12. Four single crochets apiece. One, two, three, four, for round 11. And one, two, three, four, for round 12. And again, these are gonna be pretty tight, so be patient. For round 13, we'll go ahead and put a few increases in there, make it a little easier to work with. So crochet one, single crochet one and then we'll do an increase of two. One, two. And repeat, single crochet one. One, two. This will give us a total of six stitches for round 13. Now, for the left leg, we'll now be working the toes. So for

the left leg, we're gonna start off with a single crochet. And then we'll chain five. Then, counting backwards from the hook, we'll find the second chain from the hook. One, two. Rotate your chain to locate the back ridge loop. And proceed to do three single crochet. Then slip stitch the remaining chain. There'll be three slip stitches. That gives us one toe. We'll do this two more times for three toes. Single crochet, chain five. Working in the second chain from hook. One, two. Turn to locate the back ridge loop. Single crochet three. And then slip stitch in the remaining chains. One, two, three. And then we'll do one more toe. Single crochet one, chain five. Second chain from the hook. Working in the back ridge loop. Single crochet three. And then slip stitch three to the bottom of the chain. Working in those back ridge loops. Finally, we have three more stitches to go. So we'll just go ahead and do three slip stitches. One, two, three. And our left leg is done. So we can go ahead and trim our yarn tail now. Pull that yarn through. And then we'll need our tapestry needle. And we'll wanna close up that little hole at the bottom of the foot by running that yarn in and out, just a couple of times, just to seal everything up. We'll be repeating this process almost exactly as we did for the left leg, for the right leg, with the difference that we'll be working those three slip stitches first and then proceeding to work the toes so that the hole that we close up will actually be facing down when we flip the leg over. So as you can see here, for the left leg, those slip stitches are going to be facing down. For the right leg, those slip stitches, since we've worked them first, will face down when it's on the right side of the body. So let's go ahead and we'll close up those holes. For round 14, you'll make your slip stitches first and then you'll make the feet. You'll make the toes, and then go ahead and close up that seam. And you'll have two feet and you'll be ready to start on your eyes.

Eyes

- The eyeball consists of three pieces, the pupil, the eye, and the eyelid. We'll get started on the eyeball part first. We'll then work on the eyelid and then finally the pupil, and we'll sew it together. We'll begin our eyeball with an adjustable ring with four stitches. Start by making a loop. Insert your hook through the loop, and draw the working yarn. Transfer the working yarn to your left hand, and then hold the yarn tail and ring between your thumb and middle finger. Yarn over, draw the working yarn through, yarn over again, and chain one. We're now ready to put our four stitches onto our adjustable ring. We'll be working around both the yarn tail and the ring at the same time. Insert the hook, yarn over. Yarn over one more time. Draw through those two stitches. We have one single crochet. Repeat this three more times for four stitches. We're now ready to close our adjustable ring, so give that yarn tail a tug. And we're ready to move on to round one. For round one, we're gonna be putting two single crochets in each stitch around. Might find that first stitch is a little tight. Just get the hook in there. And seven, eight completes round one. And for round two, we'll just simply do single crochets all the way around for eight stitches. The eye portion of our frog eye is now complete. We can go ahead and do a slip stitch. Trim your yarn, pull through. Ready to go ahead and make that eyelid now and the pupil. So go ahead and we'll make another adjustable ring, and this time we'll put five stitches on it. So get your yarn loaded up, move your working yarn to your left hand, and then hold that yarn tail and the ring between your thumb and your middle finger. Go ahead and draw the yarn through. Do yarn over, and draw through one more time for that first chain. And then go ahead and yarn over those two strands, yarn over, and complete your single crochet. Let's do that four more times. And now we'll have five stitches, one, two, three, four, five. Give that yarn tail a tug to close the hole. Ready to go on to round one. If at any point, you notice that hole opening up again, just give that yarn tail another tug, and it should close up pretty quick.

All right, so for round one of our eyelid, we'll single crochet, too, each of the stitches for a total of 10. That's 10. And then for the last round, round two, we'll be doing four single crochet. And in the next six single crochet, we're actually gonna be working just in the front loop. Front loop is the loop that's going to be facing you closest. And that's six. Go ahead and fasten off. Give that yarn a trim, and pull through. We now have our eyelid, and we're ready to bring in our black yarn and work on our pupil. And for our pupil, we'll just be doing a simple adjustable ring again with four stitches and then fastening off. So go ahead and yarn over, bring that yarn through, yarn over one more time for a chain one, and then go ahead and start working around those two strands for four stitches. And four, draw yarn tail back to pull up that hole closed. And then to round out your pupil, go ahead and throw a slip stitch into that first stitch to fasten off. We now have all three pieces we need to assemble one of our frog eyes. So if you'd like to go ahead and actually trim down the tails of the yellow part, just to make it a little easier to work with, you can do that now. Two inches will do just fine. Let's go ahead and we'll also trim down the tail at the center of the eyelid as well since we're going to have to tuck that tail in. So the first thing we're going to do is we're going to nest the eyeball inside the eyelid, like so. Don't worry about this little tail right here. We can tuck those in when we're all done. So go ahead and load up your yarn tail on your tapestry needle. And then using pretty basic mattress stitch, in which we'll be kind of catching the stitches of the eyeball as we go along, go ahead and catch the eyeball, and then insert it into the eyelid. And try to set your stitches back just a little bit to leave some of that eyelid free so it can overhang and be kind of in this nice little chunky eyelid effect that we'll get on our frogs. Notice how I'm actually setting back just a bit, leaving those six stitches that we put into the front loop fairly free from our last round of our eyelid. And this is pretty quick. And it's certainly not an exact science, so, put your stitches where you think they need to be. And we won't need to stuff the eye either because the cotton yarns are fairly rigid, and they'll hold their shape on their own. Now when you get to the end, again, we'll go ahead and tuck those yarn tails in at the very end. Once you're done sewing, go ahead and leave that green yarn tail in place 'cause we'll need it to actually sew the eyes onto the frog. Let's go ahead now and tuck those two yellow tails in. Oop. If you find that they escape your tapestry needle, you can always insert the tapestry needle into the eye and then kind of work the yarn tails into the needle. And then you can give 'em a yank and pull 'em through. So let's go ahead and give those a trim. We have our eye inset into our eyeball, ready to add the pupil. So to get the pupil in the right spot, to kind of hold it in place, I like to take the yarn tail that's in the center of the pupil, load that up onto my tapestry needle and just insert that straight through the eye. What that'll do is it'll hold the pupil in place for me while I sew it down. So let's go and load up the yarn tail that we fastened off the end of our pupil. We'll secure this to the top of the eye with a few stitches. There you go. Go ahead and fasten that off. We'll make one more of these and be ready to start putting our frog together. Once your eyeball is all done, go ahead and make another one, and then we'll be ready to put our body together.

Assembly and lily pad

- Ready to assemble the body of our frog. To put the bodies together we're going to put the right side of the belly against the wrong side of the top of the body. And to tell which is the right side and the wrong side you just have to look for the yarn tail that we had at the beginning of our chain which is in the middle. So, this little yarn tail is going to be on the wrong side. So this will be the right side, the top of the body. This is the right side of the top of the lower part of the body. When we place them together you now see that the wrong side of the belly is facing out and the right side

of the top of the body is also facing out. So this is what we want and the idea here is to match up all of our stitches to make it really easy to sew them together without any sort of weird wobbling. If you have them you can also use your slip rings along the edge to hold the top and bottom pieces together. If you're anything like me I actually prefer this over safety pins 'cause I tend to poke myself a lot with the safety pins, and this is at least a little safer. As an added bonus it does do a good job of holding the pieces together pretty snug. Okay, that should do it. So if you'd like you can actually begin by loading up the tapestry needle with the leftover yarn tail from the body. Go ahead and whip stitch around your frog's body leaving an opening of about one or two inches. We'll be using this opening to stuff our frog before we close up the seam. In this case we'll be using dried beans to stuff our beanbag. We're about ready to stuff our frog we have an opening of about two inches or so. We'll be using dried pinto beans for these bean bags but you can go ahead and use really any sort of bean you like as long as it's big enough to not come through the holes of your bean bag. So Lima beans, kidney beans are all really good for this sort of project. You don't need too many beans to stuff your beanbag you actually want it to be somewhat floppy. So in about half a cup to a cup should do the trick. In addition to being a fun little beanbag toy a stuffed beanbag frog actually makes a really great soft and squishy ice pack. If you put the bean filled beanbag frog in your freezer for a few hours you can use it to treat minor bumps and bruises. Try to keep your beanbag frog relatively dry since dried beans tend to not like getting wet unless of course you'd like to start growing your frog. Once your frog is stuffed go ahead and start whip stitching that seam all the way closed and fasten off, and we'll be ready to add our arms and legs. Before you begin to assemble your frog just make sure you've worked in any of these extra yarn tails that might be still attached to the body. For the arms we'll attach the arms around the shoulders of the frog which are roughly around where the frog's body starts getting a little bit wider. This is the head part, and here's the main body. So let's go ahead and do that first. We'll be attaching the arms to the green upper portion of the body. And I like to make sure that the slip stitches from the hand are facing down with the fingers on the upper part. So when the frog is facing forward the fingers will be on the top. Go ahead and just sew around that arm. And again a simple whip stitch will be perfectly sufficient for this sort of attachment. Once the arm is on there go ahead and fasten off your yarn. Working the end. Trim. One arm attached, go ahead and attach the other one. And again just make sure that you're being consistent. The slip stitches are facing down with this hand. We'll make sure the slip stitches are facing down with this one as well. We'll go ahead and work this arm exactly the same way as we did the other arm. For the legs the slight detail we changed on the legs when we were working on them was making sure that the slip stitches were done either before the toes or after the toes. And much like the hands we'll make sure the slip stitches are facing down and once you face those slip stitches down you'll notice that one leg becomes the right and one leg becomes the left. So just make sure they're on the correct side before you begin attaching the legs. Much like the arms you can use the leftover yarn tail to attach the legs to the back of the body, and I like to lay everything out first just to make sure I like the placement before I begin sewing and making sure everything is nice and even. So I think this looks pretty good for this leg. I'll attach the right leg first. And much like the arm just go ahead and work your way around attaching it to the upper green portion of the body. If you like you can also use your slip rings to attach the pieces and get your placement figured out before you sew as well. Little planning never hurts. All the way around that leg. And there's no need to stuff the arms or legs, we wanna keep them pretty floppy. This leg is just about attached. Once our leg is attached we can go ahead and fasten that off. Working the yarn and then we'll attach the other leg before we attach our eyes. For my frogs I like kind of a more

walleyed look, but you are welcome to attach the eyes however you like. In fact I suggest playing around with them to decide what's best for you. You could go with something that's forward facing, sideways, lower, close together, sky's the limit. But for me I'll be attaching them on the sides and a little bit more of a walleyed affect. Cause I think that's kind of cute. So just use that leftover yarn tail to anchor the bottom part of the eyelid right to the head. Just a few stitches should do the trick. And again since the cotton yarns are fairly stiff they do a pretty good job of kind of holding their place, shaping as we sew. Just place stitches wherever you think you need them to keep the eye in the position that you want. I like to leave the tails free until I have both eyes attached just in case I need to move things around or adjust things to even it up. Or in some cases pull the eye up and put it down again. When you're attaching the eye you may notice that the front loops that we worked in are a little bit looser than the four single crochets so I like to keep those four single crochets from the last round of the eyelid on the bottom and the six single crochets we worked in the front loops on the top. You'll see that it does form a little bit of a lip, kind of a nice little lid effect. So just go ahead and attach that other eye. Make sure to turn your frog quite a bit when you're working so that you can make sure everything is pretty even as you attach. You can also use that chain in the center of the body as a gage to make sure there's an even amount of spacing between the eyes. That way one eye isn't too far left or too far right. I think that looks pretty good. See here that I may wanna add just one more little stitch to this eye to bring it a hair closer to the front, just to even it up with the other eyeball. Okay, I think that looks pretty good. So we'll go ahead and start fastening off those eyes. If we're adding our final lip detail. Alright, we're ready to trim our tails. The final step will be adding that little lip detail to the front of our frog's face and this guy is gonna be good to go. We'll be adding a lip detail by working through both the top and bottom parts of the body by inserting the hook from the belly up through the front of the face. So go ahead and insert your hook, grab your green yarn and draw it through. Go ahead and chain one and then begin working a single crochet of green yarn through the bottom top of the front of the face, working from the bottom of one eye to the bottom of the other eye. I like to look for the holes where the whip stitches go in as the point where I should insert my hook and once you reach the other side go ahead and insert your hook, draw the yarn through like a slip stitch. You're gonna cut and pull. And this very cute little lip detail for our frog and we're ready to work in those stitches. Our tapestry needle. Before we can take this little guy outside and play a fun and friendly game of frog beanbag toss. Trim those yarn tails. And there you have it. If you'd like to add a little tongue detail to your frog refer to the pattern for the tongue option. Our frog's all done and he's so cute. Now remember you can use him for either the beanbag toss game that we're gonna be working on or if you like you can put him in the freezer and he actually will double as a really cute soft and friendly ice pack for your little ones when they get bumps and bruises. So let's go ahead and make a couple of lily pads and we'll be ready to toss some frogs. To make a lily pad for your beanbag toss let's go ahead and we'll make an adjustable ring to start. Go ahead and insert your hook through your loop, pull through that working yarn to your left hand and hold on to those two strands. Draw the yarn through. One more time for that first chain stitch and then to start we'll make six single crochets in our adjustable ring. Working around both strands at the same time. So that's six. One, two, three, four, five, six. Go ahead and give your yarn tail a tug, to close up that hole. For round one we'll go ahead and do two single crochets in each stitch around for a total of 12. Since we'll be doing quite a few rounds with the lily pads I recommend marking the last stitch with a stitch marker, I'll use a slip ring but you can use a safety pin, that works just as well. Now we can go on to round two and we'll be continuing working in the round up until round five where we'll actually start working in rows

back and forth to create a nice little split at the top of our lily pad. Continue working in rounds for the pattern until round five, and then we'll add a cute little leaf detail to finish our lily pad out. Go ahead and do those last few stitches. And we can actually put our slip ring aside because we're gonna start working in rows now. So to do that chain one, give your work a turn and we'll be working in this first stitch so we'll skip this chain and we'll be doing single crochet two and then increase, and single crochet three. And we'll be repeating that pattern 'till we reach the end of the row, and once you reach the end of the row we'll go ahead and chain again and we'll begin working on row seven. And the affect we're going after is we're trying to create that little split in the lily pads. Here's our last couple of stitches and we'll go ahead and chain give your work a turn and then start working your row seven. And as we work these rows we're gonna work all the way up to row 11, which will ultimately look like this finished lily pad. Now that you've completed your frog and your lily pad go ahead and grab some more colors and make a few more of your frogs and a few more lily pads to create a nice game for your family to play. At least the way we like to play it in my house is we put the lily pads out on the lawn and then we toss the frogs to see whether or not we can hit our colored lily pads. You can also make the lily pad game safe for your pool by stuffing your frog with baby bath sponges cut into little pieces. You'll find that the lily pads will actually float on your pool surface, and it's kind of fun to toss the frogs in to see whether or not you can get them to land. Well, this was a fun project it works up nice and quick has a lot of cute character and that I hope you enjoyed.