Crochet Bowser Sweater for a Turtle

This pattern has a difficulty rating of

Note: You will need to know how to crochet hexagons, cones, and I-cords.

Fits a Box Turtle (approximately 5 1/2" long x 4 3/4" wide x 2 1/2" tall)

Materials

Size C-2 (2.75 mm) crochet hook
Size 2 (2.75 mm) double-pointed knitting needle
Tapestry needle
Bright green worsted weight yarn: Deborah Norville Everyday Soft Worsted in Electric Green
White worsted weight yarn: Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in White
Golden brown worsted weight yarn: Lion Brand Vanna's Choice in Honey
Polyester Fiberfill
Sewing needle or sewing machine
White thread
3/4" elastic

Abbreviations

beg = beginning
ch = chain
ch-sp = chain space
dc = double crochet
ea = each
FO = fasten off
hdc = half double crochet
htr = half-treble crochet
rep = repeat
rnd = round
sc = single crochet
sk = skip
slst = slip stitch
st(s) = stitch(es)
tr = treble crochet

Instructions

Step 1: Make 7 hexagons

Hexagons measure 2 1/2" in diameter.

Using bright green yarn, ch 4, join with slst to 1st ch to form a ring.

Round 1: Ch 4 (counts as first dc plus ch 1), *dc into center of ring, ch 1. Repeat from * 10 more times, join with slst to the 3rd ch in 4-ch. (12 dc and 12 ch sp)

Round 2: Ch 3, sk next ch-sp, *(2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc, ch 1), sk next ch-sp. Repeat from * 4 more times. (2 dc, ch 2, dc) in next ch-sp, join with slst to top of 3-ch. FO and work in ends.

Step 2: Make 7 spikes

Using white yarn, ch 2.

Round 1: 4 sc in 2nd ch from hook.

Round 2: sc in each st around.

Round 3: 2 sc in each st around. (8)

Rounds 4-5: sc in each st around.

Round 6: *sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, repeat from * 3 more times. (12)

Round 7: sc in each st around, slst in next st and FO.

Lightly stuff each spike with a bit of Fiberfill and sew one spike onto the center of each hexagon.

Step 3: Make 7 I-cord circles

Using honey yarn, C-2 crochet hook, and a size 2 dpn, crochet 7 I-cords approximately 4" long.

If this technique is new to you, I recommend this tutorial by Tanya Beckett.

http://youtu.be/KCl8vJpKaPg

With tapestry needle, sew together the ends of each I-cord to create a circle. Place one circle over each spike and sew to the hexagon. FO and work in ends.
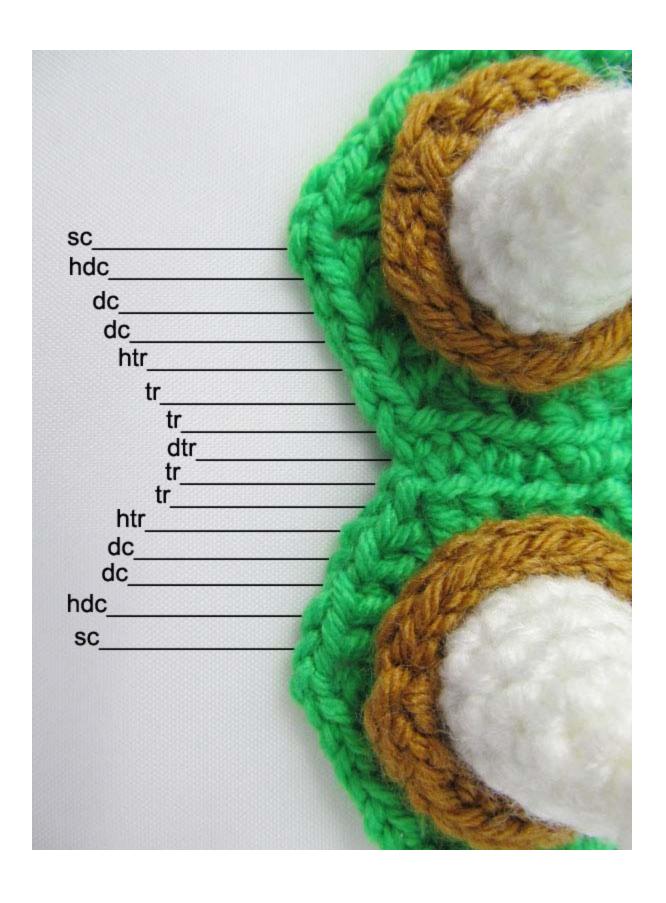
Step 4: Sew shell together

Lay out your turtle shell pieces and sew them together with one hexagon in the center. Also sew eight of the outer edges together as indicated in the diagram below. This will make it three-dimensional.

Step 5: Crochet to fill the gaps at the front and back of the shell

Hold the shell so that the open side is facing away from you. Starting at a front or back corner to the right of the gap, pull up a loop and ch 1. To fill the gap: Sc, hdc, 2 dc, htr, 2 tr, dtr, 2 tr, htr, 2 dc, hdc, sc. See diagram below.

Sc in each st around until you get to the corner at the right of the gap on the other side, and repeat the pattern above to fill the gap. Sc in each st around until you get back to where you started. Join with slst.

sc_____

hdc_____

dc_____

dc_____

htr_____

tr_____

tr_____

dtr_____

tr_____

tr_____

htr_____

dc_____

dc_____

hdc_____

sc_____

Once you sew up the sides and fill in the gaps at the front and back, it should look like this...

Step 6: Add a white border

Switch to white yarn and dc in each st around.

Step 7: Make an elastic band to hold the sweater on the turtle

Cut an 8" piece of 3/4"-wide elastic. Pin it to the inside bottom edge at the center of the shell, leaving at least 1/2" allowance. Sew across elastic to attach it to the white border. Fold the elastic over 1/4" and sew across again.

Hold the shell with the open side facing away from you. With green yarn, pull up a loop in the st just to the right of the elastic. Ch 1 and sc in same st. 3 sc to the other side of the elastic.

Ch 6, wrapping this ch around the back of elastic. Sc in 1st st. Continue sc in rounds until you have crocheted a band around the elastic that is 5 1/2" long. FO, leaving a long tail for sewing.

As you did on the other side, find the center of the shell, and with green yarn tail from band, sew band to white edge of shell. Tug slightly on the elastic and sew the elastic to the white edge. Fold down the elastic 1/4" and sew across again. Trim away excess elastic.

Step 8: Turn your turtle into a mean King Koopa