

“ Bruno the lion loves lazing around on the beach in the summer sunshine, but don't worry, he is tame! ”



*Sleepy lion*



# SLEEPY LION

By Irene Strange

Bruno the sleepy lion was inspired by retro cartoons and old circus posters. This amigurumi toy is a fab summer project – the perfect miniature companion!

## About this Pattern...

**DIFFICULTY**  
Intermediate

**YARN**

Rowan Wool Cotton, 50% Merino  
50% Cotton, 50g/113m/123yd,  
WPI 11

MC: Freesia 974 (1 ball)

CC1: Chestnut 966 (1 ball)

CC2: Blue Wash 973 (1 ball)

CC3: Antique, 900 (1 ball)

**TENSION**

27sts and 28rows to 10cm/4in

**NOTIONS**

2.5mm crochet hook or size needed  
to obtain tension

Darning needle

Polyester toy stuffing

Scissors

Pair of toy safety eyes or large beads  
(optional, if you don't want your lion  
to have sleepy eyes)

## YARN ALTERNATIVES

**Save** • Debbie Bliss Cotton DK

**Spend** • Debbie Bliss Cotton Angora Wool Mix

**Spoil yourself** • Sublime Organic  
Merino Wool DK



### CHEEKS (MAKE 2)

Using MC, make a magic ring.

**Rnd 1:** 1ch (does not count as a st), 6dc  
in ring, pull ring tight – 6sts.

**Rnd 2:** 2dc in ea st around – 12sts.

**Rnd 3:** (1dc in next st, 2dc in next st) 6  
times – 18sts.

**Rnd 4:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 5:** 1dc in each of first two sts, sl  
st in next st.

Fasten off.

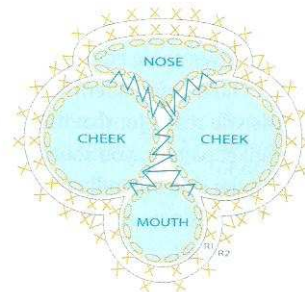


Diagram A - joining the face parts together,  
and first 2 rounds of the face

### NOSE

Using CC1, work as for cheek.

### MOUTH

Using MC, make a magic ring.

**Rnd 1:** 1ch (does not count as a st), 6dc  
in ring, pull ring tight – 6sts.

**Rnd 2:** 2dc in ea st around – 12sts.

**Rnd 3:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 4:** 1dc in each of first two sts, sl  
st in next st, leave the yarn on hook,  
connect together the four pieces made,  
as shown in diagram A.

### SEW MUZZLE

Sew together the mouth, two cheeks  
and nose, as shown in images 1, 2 and 3.





Modelling wire or coated gardening wire (optional, add this into the body if you want your lion to be super pose-able)

**FINAL MEASUREMENTS**

Size will vary depending on yarn used, approx 25cm/10in

**SPECIAL ABBREVIATIONS**

dc-blo – double crochet worked in the back loop only

dc-blo2tog – decrease by working 2 double crochet (worked in the back loop only) together

dc-blo3tog – decrease by working 3 double crochet (worked in the back loop only) together

**SPECIAL STITCH PATTERNS**

**Mane pattern**

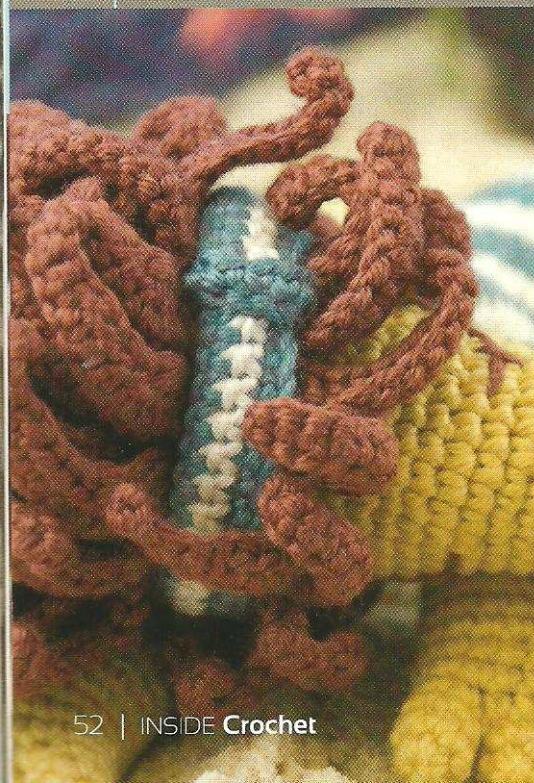
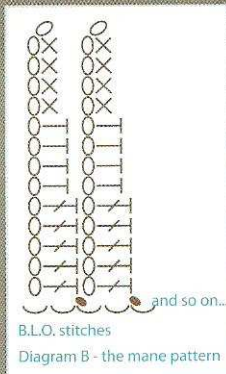
This pattern is worked in the front loops left free when you worked in the back loop only on the head.

Join yarn to body.

Make 14ch,

Row 1: 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in ea of next 3ch, 1tr in ea of next 4ch, 1tr in ea of rem 5ch, miss 1st on body, sl st in next st on body.

Rep Row 1 for required length.



**HEAD**

Once the feature parts are sewn together, carry on working in the round, from the mouthpiece, as shown in image 4. Continue in MC.

**Rnd 1:** 1dc in ea st around – 38sts.

**Rnd 2:** Reduce by 4sts in this round, in the corners between the parts (see diagram A R2) 1dc in each of all other stitches – 34sts.

**Rnd 3:** Reduce by 4st in this round, same as Rnd 2, 1dc in each of all other stitches – 30sts.

**Rnds 4 to 5:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 6:** [1dc in ea of next 8sts, dc2tog] 3 times – 27sts.

**Rnd 7:** [1dc in ea of next 7sts, dc2tog] 3 times – 24sts.

**Rnd 8:** [1dc in ea of next 6sts, dc2tog] 3 times – 21sts.

**Rnds 9 to 10:** Rep Rnds 4 to 5.

**Rnd 11:** [1dc in ea of next 6sts, 2dc in next st] 3 times – 24sts.

**Rnd 12:** [1dc in ea of next 7sts, 2dc in next st] 3 times – 27sts.

**Rnds 13 to 18:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 19:** In this round, change to CCI when at the back of the head, 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 20:** In this round, once you've reached the point where colour changed in previous round, start to work in back loop only. 1dc-blo in ea st around – 27sts.

**Rnd 21 to 22:** 1dc-blo in ea st around.

**Rnd 23:** [1dc-blo in first 7sts, dc-blo2tog] 3 times 2 – 4sts.

**Rnd 24:** [1dc-blo in first 2sts, dc-blo2tog] 6 times – 18sts. At this point, add some stuffing to the face and head.

**Rnd 25:** [dc-blo2tog] 9 times – 9sts. Top up stuffing.

**Rnd 26:** [dc-blo3tog\*] 3 times – 3sts. Do this if you can get the hook in the gap – if not, carry on with the mane and sew up the opening later on.

Image 5 shows the head completed up to the mane.

Do not fasten off, work your way backwards along the stitches worked in the back loop only, using the Mane Patten.

**MANE**

Follow the pattern in diagram B (above left) along the front loops of the stitches worked in the back loop only, on the head.



Our cute lion is made in the round without turning your work – just crochet upwards in a spiral!

You can change the amount of chain stitches to get a neater, shorter mane, or make them even longer for a really shaggy one, as shown in image 6.

**HEADBAND**

Using CC2, make 39ch.

**Rnd 1:** 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in ea st across, turn – 38sts.

**Rnd 2:** 1ch (does not count as a st), 1dc in ea st across, turn.

**Rnd 3:** Change to CC3, 1ch 1dc in ea st across.

**Rnd 4:** Change to CC2, 1ch, 1dc in ea st. Fasten off and sew the two ends together to make a band.

If you like, you can crochet a little extra strip to cover up the seam.

Using CC2, make 8ch.

**Rnd 1:** 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in ea st across, turn – 7sts.

**Rnd 2:** 1ch, 1dc in ea st across. Fasten off. Wrap around the seam of the headband and sew up.

**TAIL**

Using MC, make a magic ring.

**Rnd 1:** 1ch (does not count as a st), 6dc in





ring, pull ring tight – 6sts.  
**Rnd 2:** 1dc in ea stitch around.  
**Rnds 3 to 25 (or desired length):** Rep Rnd 2.  
 For a springy tail, add a bit of wire inside.  
 Add Tail Fringe – see diagram C (below right) for instructions.  
 Wrap the fringe around the tip of the tail in a spiral and sew in place.

**LEGS**

**TOES (MAKE 6)**

Make 3 for each foot, 6 in total.  
 Using MC, make a magic ring  
**Rnd 1:** 1ch, (does not count as a st), 6dc in ring, pull ring tight – 6sts.  
**Rnd 2:** 2dc in ea st around – 12sts.  
**Rnds 3 to 4:** 1dc in ea st around.  
 Fasten off.  
 Connect the 3 toes together, referring to diagram D.  
**Rnd 1:** Using MC, work 24dc in the first round, following diagram – 24sts.  
**Rnds 2 to 3:** 1dc in ea st around.  
**Rnd 4:** [4dc, dc2tog] 4 times – 20sts.  
**Rnd 5:** [3dc, dc2tog] 4 times – 16sts.  
**Rnds 6 to 11:** 1dc in ea st around.  
**Rnd 7:** 1dc in ea st around.  
**Rnd 12:** Change to CC2, 1dc in ea st around.  
**Rnds 13 to 14:** 1dc in ea st around.  
**Rnd 15:** Change to CC3, 1dc in ea st around.  
**Rnd 16:** 1dc in ea st around.  
**Rnd 17:** Change to CC2, 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 18:** 1dc in ea st around.  
 Fasten off first foot once completed, leave the second one unfastened, then carry on working in the round from there, once the leg joint is in place.

**LEG JOINT**

Using CC2, make 6ch.  
**Rnd 1:** 1dc in second ch from hook, 1dc in ea st across, turn – 5sts.  
**Rnds 2 to 3:** 1ch, 1dc in ea st across, turn.  
 Fasten off.  
 You'll now have two finished legs and a leg joint, as shown in image 7.  
 Connect the legs together with 5 slip stitches on either side of the joint, then carry on working in the round to make the body (see images 8 and 9). The leg joint is stitched in between the legs for a bit of extra room.

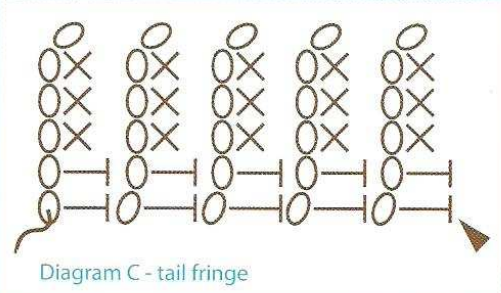


Diagram C - tail fringe



Diagram D - connecting the toes

○ chain	⌋ half treble
• slip stitch	⌋ treble
+ double crochet	



### Swimming costume stripes pattern

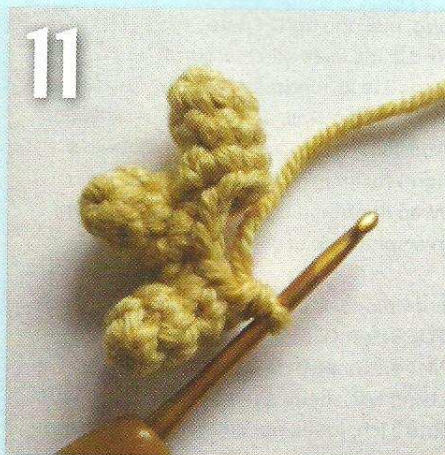
For the legs and body, alternate 3 rounds of CC2 with 2 rounds of CC3. On the arms, alternate 2 rounds of each.

### PATTERN NOTES

Wool Cotton is great at holding the shape, even without adding extra wires inside. The finished toy has great definition and could be brushed with a wire brush for a bit of extra fluffiness.

Amigurumi are made without turning work, unless specifically indicated. This toy is crocheted in the round without a joining chain at the end of each round – keep on going up in a spiral to complete it!

Amigurumi are very tightly crocheted toys – try to leave only the tiniest gaps between stitches, so no stuffing will show through.



“Add modelling wire or coated gardening wire into the body for a lion that’s super pose-able!”

**Rnd 1:** Using CC2, 1dc in ea st around – 34sts.

**Rnd 2:** Change to CC3, 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 3:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 4:** Change to CC2, 1dc in ea st around.

This is a good place to add stuffing to the toes and legs, before the body becomes too narrow.

**Rnds 5 to 6:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 7:** Change to CC3, [dc2tog, 1dc in ea of next 15sts] twice – 32sts.

**Rnd 8:** [dc2tog, 1dc in ea of next 14sts] twice – 30sts.

**Rnd 9:** Change to CC2, [dc2tog, 1dc in ea of next 13sts] twice – 28sts.

**Rnds 10 to 11:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 12:** Change to CC3, [dc2tog, 1dc in ea of next 12sts] twice – 26sts.

**Rnd 13:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 14:** Change to CC2, [dc2tog, 1dc in ea of next 11sts] twice – 24sts.

**Rnds 15 to 16:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 17:** Change to CC3, 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 18:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 19:** Change to CC2, 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnds 20 to 21:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 22:** Change to CC3, 1dc in ea st around. Add stuffing to the body.

**Rnd 23:** [dc2tog] 12 times – 12sts.

**Rnd 24:** Change to MC, 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnds 25 to 27:** 1dc in ea st around. Fasten off.

### ARMS

#### FINGERS (MAKE 6)

Make 3 per arm, 6 in total.

Using MC, make a magic ring.

**Rnd 1:** 1ch (does not count as a st), 6dc in ring, pull ring tight – 6sts.

**Rnds 2 to 3:** 1dc in ea st around. Fasten off.

### ARMS

Using MC, connect the fingers together, just like with the toes, as shown in image 10.

**Rnd 1:** 1dc in ea st around – 15sts.

Image 11 shows arms after round 1.

**Rnds 2 to 7:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 8:** Change to CC2, 1dc in ea st around.

## Top Tip

Give your lion an extra fluffy finish by running a wire brush gently over the surface.





**Rnd 9:** dc2tog, 1dc in ea st around – 14sts.

**Rnd 10:** Change to CC3, 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 11:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 12:** Change to CC2, 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 13:** 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnds 14 to 15:** Rep Rnds 10 to 11.

**Rnd 16:** Change to CC2, 1dc in ea st around.

**Rnd 17:** [dc2tog, 1dc in ea of next 5sts] twice – 12sts.

**Rnds 18 to 19:** Rep Rnds 10 to 11.

**Rnd 20:** Rep Rnd 16.

**Rnd 21:** [dc2tog, 1dc in ea of next 4sts] twice – 10sts.

**Rnd 22:** 1dc in ea st around – 10sts. Fasten off.

Stuff, fold the top edge flat and sew up the opening, as shown in image 12.

You want to keep the arms very loosely stuffed at the top, so they move about more freely.

## FINISHING

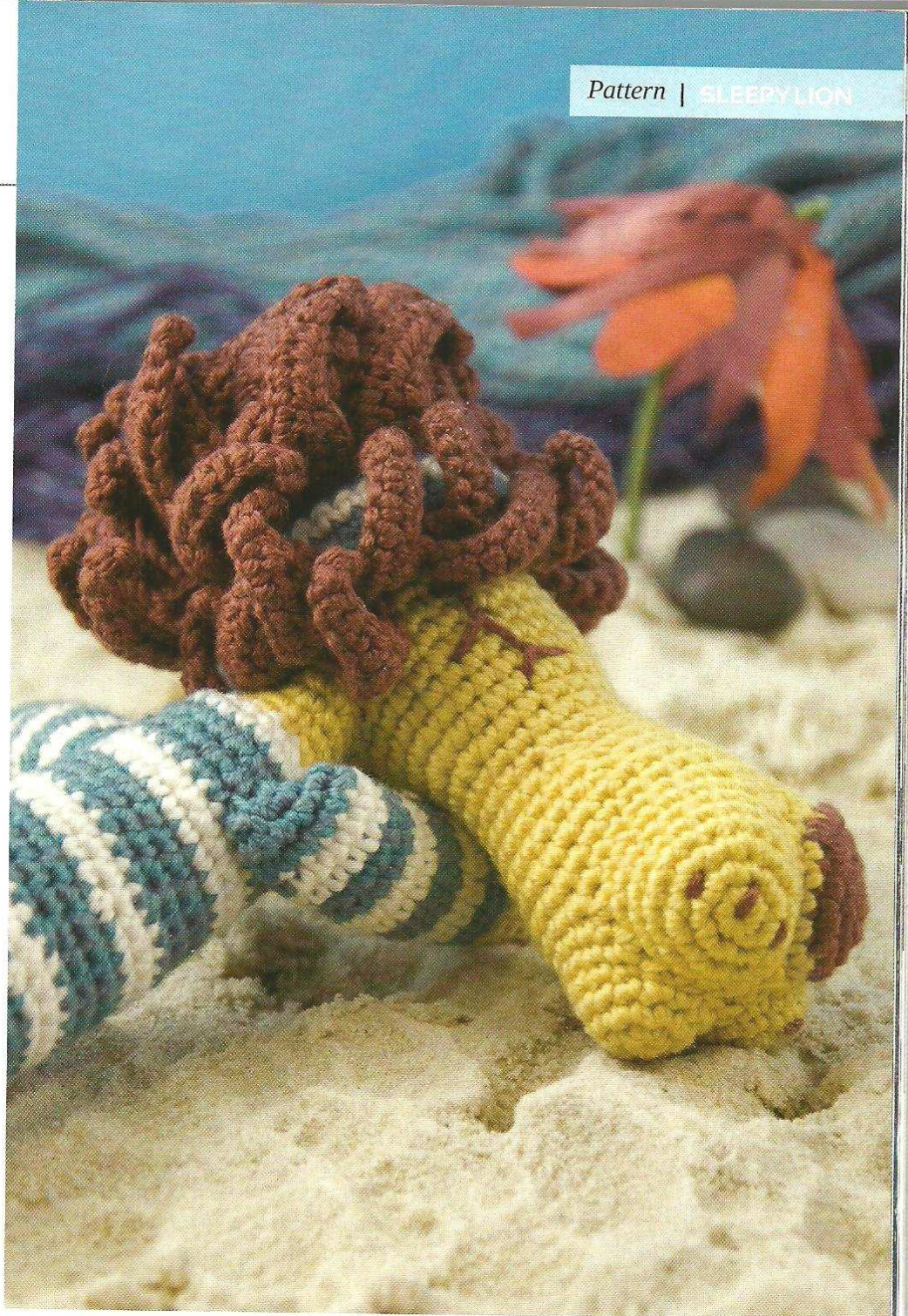
Embroider the sleepy eyes (see diagram below right) and cheek dots with CC1 yarn. Or attach safety eyes or beads.

## SEW TOGETHER

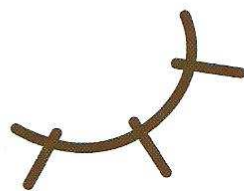
Attach head to the body, as shown in image 13.

Attach tail to the body, as shown in image 14.

Attach arms to the body, as shown in image 15.



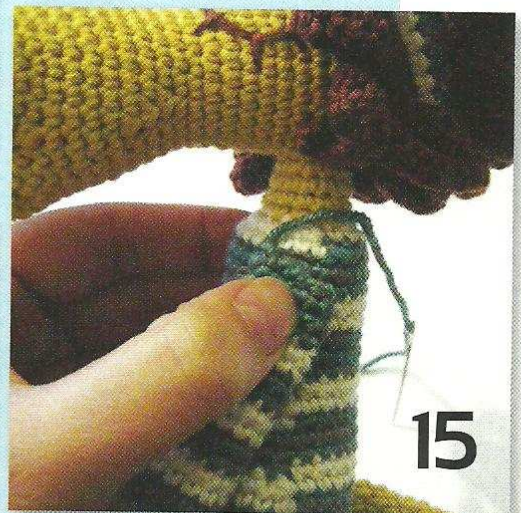
13



Sleepy Eyes Embroidery



14



15