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Crochet Crocodile Rug – Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial



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This **Crochet Crocodile Rug** is a playful animal-shaped floor mat worked mainly in rows with gradual increases and decreases to form the long curved tail, wide body, four legs, and broad crocodile head. The chart uses standard **US crochet terminology**, and the finished rug shown measures approximately **35 in (90 cm) long** and about **18 in (45 cm) wide across the body**. Your final measurements can change depending on the yarn thickness, hook size, and personal tension.

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The main rug is worked in green, while the teeth are made in white. Decorative eyes and raised nostrils give the crocodile its recognizable expression. The chart also shows shaped feet with individual toes, a gently curved tail, and scalloped white teeth surrounding the sides and front of the mouth.

For the best result, read through the entire tutorial before starting. The diagram is primarily a **shape chart**, so the most important technique is understanding where the increases and decreases occur rather than treating every row as a rigid stitch-count formula. Keep comparing your work to the silhouette shown in the chart as you progress.

Materials and Crochet Stitch Legend

For a sturdy floor rug, use **thick cotton yarn, recycled T-shirt yarn, or another durable bulky yarn**. The sample is predominantly bright green with white yarn for the teeth.

You will need approximately:

- Thick green yarn for the crocodile
- White yarn for the teeth
- Crochet hook suitable for your yarn
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Stitch markers
- Two safety eyes, approximately **12–14 mm**, or crocheted/embroidered eyes
- Optional non-slip rug backing
- Optional fiberfill for slightly raised nostrils or eye details

Choose a hook that makes a firm but flexible fabric. Because this project will be used as a rug, the stitches should not be extremely loose.

The chart uses the following **US crochet abbreviations**:

ch – chain: Yarn over and pull the yarn through the loop on your hook.

sl st – slip stitch: Insert the hook into the indicated stitch, yarn over, and pull through both the stitch and the loop on the hook.

sc – single crochet: Insert hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over again and pull through both loops.

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hdc – half double crochet: Yarn over, insert the hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop. Yarn over and pull through all three loops.

dc – double crochet: Yarn over, insert the hook into the stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop. Yarn over and pull through two loops, then yarn over and pull through the remaining two loops.

Increase: Work **2 stitches into the same stitch**. The chart uses increases in sc, hdc, and dc depending on the section.

Bobble: The detail chart indicates a raised cluster made with **5 dc in the same stitch**, used to form the nostrils.

When working in rows, turn your work at the end of each row unless the chart indicates otherwise. A turning chain may be used according to the stitch being worked.

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Step 1 – Crochet the Long Curved Tail

Begin at the narrow tip of the **tail**. The tail starts very small and gradually becomes wider as it approaches the body.

Make a short foundation chain suitable for beginning the pointed tip. Work the first row across using the stitch type shown in the diagram. The narrow end should remain rounded rather than square.

Continue working back and forth in rows.

During the early rows, place increases near the outer edges. An increase means working **2 stitches into one stitch**. These increases slowly widen the tail.

The chart shows the tail curving gently to one side. To create this curve, do not distribute every increase perfectly symmetrically. Place slightly more shaping on the outside edge of the curve and less shaping along the inside edge.

Continue increasing gradually. Avoid adding too many stitches at once because the fabric may ripple. The tail should lie flat.

As the tail grows, transition into longer rows. The chart shows a mixture of taller stitches through the central portion, particularly **hdc and dc**, which help the project grow quickly while keeping the fabric smooth.

Lay the piece flat every few rows and check the curve. You want a smooth crocodile tail rather than a sharp bend.

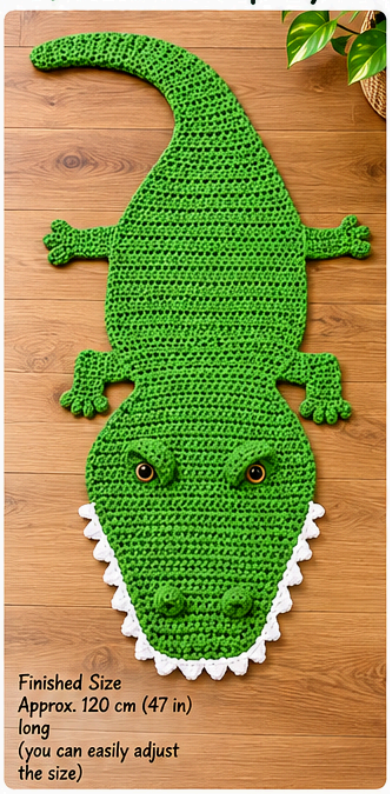
Toward the lower part of the tail, the rows become progressively wider until they begin flowing directly into the body.

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CROCHET ALLIGATOR RUG PATTERN

Step-by-Step Tutorial with Chart

A fun and cozy rug for your home! Perfect for kids' rooms, play areas, or as a unique gift idea.



Finished Size
Approx. 120 cm (47 in) long
(you can easily adjust the size)

MATERIALS



- Worsted weight yarn (approx. 800 g green, 50 g white, small amount of black)
- Crochet hook: 6.0 mm (J/10) (or size needed for your yarn)
- 2 safety eyes (12–15 mm)
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Stitch markers (optional)

ABBREVIATIONS (US TERMS)

ch	= chain
sl st	= slip stitch
sc	= single crochet
hdc	= half double crochet
dc	= double crochet
tr	= treble crochet (triple crochet)
inc	= increase (2 sc in same stitch)
dec	= decrease (sc2tog)
st(s)	= stitch(es)
[ ]	= repeat instructions
( )	= number of stitches at the end of the round/row

STITCH GUIDE



Chain (ch)
Yarn over, pull through loop.



Single Crochet (sc)
Insert hook, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through both loops.

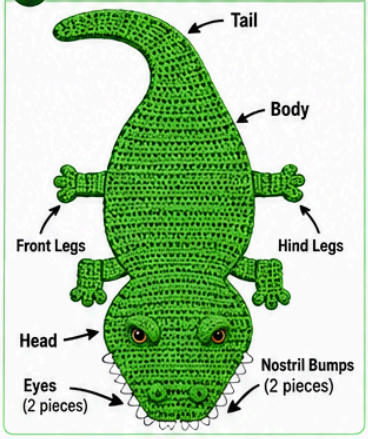


Half Double Crochet (hdc)
Yarn over, insert hook, pull up loop, yarn over, pull through all 3 loops.

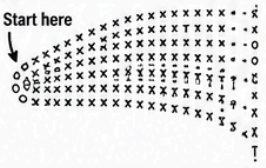


Double Crochet (dc)
Yarn over, insert hook, pull up loop, yarn over, pull through 2 loops, yarn over, pull through last 2 loops.

2 PATTERN OVERVIEW (PIECES)



3 TAIL – DIAGRAM & INSTRUCTIONS



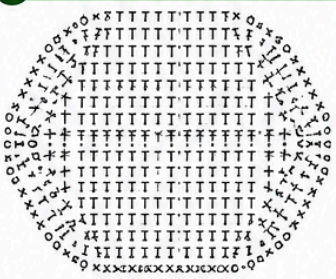
R1: 6 sc
R2: 8 sc
R3: 10 sc
R4: 12 sc
R5: 14 sc
R6: 16 sc
R7: 18 sc
R8: 20 sc



Continue increasing evenly until desired width, then work straight.

1. Ch 6.
2. Work in rows, increasing 1–2 stitches each row until it reaches the width of the body.
3. Then work straight for several rows.
4. Slightly decrease toward the body to blend.
5. Fasten off and continue with the body (or sew later).

4 BODY – DIAGRAM & INSTRUCTIONS



R1: 30 sc
R2: inc around (60)
R3–R20: 60 sc (adjust for desired size)
R21: dec evenly (48)
R22: 48 sc
R23: dec evenly (36)
R24: 36 sc
Continue shaping toward the head.

Work in continuous rounds or joined rows.
Use stitch markers to keep the center.
Adjust the number of rows to make your rug longer or shorter.

5 LEGS (MAKE 4)





1. Ch 8.
2. Work 7 sc back.
3. For the foot: ch 3 for each toe, make 3–4 toes.
4. Sl st and fasten off.
5. Sew legs to the sides of the body.

6 HEAD – DIAGRAM & INSTRUCTIONS



R1: 10 sc
R2: inc (20)
R3: sc, inc (30)
R4: 2 sc, inc (40)
R5–R10: 40 sc
R11: 2 sc, dec (30)
R12: 30 sc
R13: 1 sc, dec (20)
R14: 20 sc
R15: dec (10)
Fasten off.

7 EYES (MAKE 2)





R1: 6 sc in a magic ring (6)
R2: inc around (12)
R3: sc around (12)
R4: sc, inc (18)
R5: 18 sc
Fasten off, insert safety eye and sew to the head.

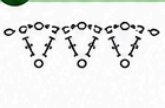
8 NOSTRIL BUMPS (MAKE 2)





R1: 6 sc in a magic ring (6)
R2: inc around (12)
R3: 12 sc
Fasten off and sew to the snout.

9 TEETH (WHITE EDGING)





Attach white yarn to the edge of the head.
Row 1: *sl st, ch 3, 3 dc in the 3rd ch from the hook, sl st in next stitch*, repeat around the mouth.
Fasten off and weave in ends.

10 ASSEMBLY



1. Sew the tail, legs, and head to the body (or crochet them as one piece).
2. Attach the eyes and nostril bumps.
3. Add the white teeth edging.
4. Weave in all loose ends.
5. Shape your rug and enjoy!

Happy Crocheting! May your alligator rug bring joy and creativity to your home!

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Do not fasten off if you are following the chart as a continuous piece. Continue directly in the body section.

Step 2 – Shape the Crocodile Body

The **body** is the widest central section of the rug.

After finishing the expanding tail section, continue working in rows across the growing width.

Increase at both sides where shown in the chart. These side increases create the rounded upper body.

Most of the center rows are worked evenly. This means working approximately one stitch into each stitch from the previous row while maintaining the increase placement at the edges when required.

The crocodile body should become broad and slightly oval.

As you approach the center of the body, stop increasing for several rows so the sides remain relatively straight.

Keep your tension consistent. Uneven tension can cause one edge to become longer than the other.

The chart shows the front legs positioned near the upper-middle area of the body. Mark these locations with stitch markers if that helps you keep the project symmetrical.

Continue downward through the body until you approach the hind-leg area.

At this stage, the body begins narrowing slightly toward the neck and head. Follow the chart by decreasing or shaping the outer edges gradually.

A simple decrease can be made by working two stitches together, although the diagram mainly communicates the shaping through changes in row width.

Do not make abrupt decreases. Gradual shaping creates the smooth silhouette visible in the finished rug.

Step 3 – Make the Four Legs

The chart shows **four legs**: two front legs and two hind legs.

Each leg extends outward from the body.

Depending on how you prefer to work, the legs can be crocheted directly from the body edge or made separately and securely sewn on. The chart notes that each leg may be worked separately and then attached to the body.

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For the **front legs**, create a short rectangular or slightly tapered section using rows of sc, hdc, or dc as shown.

The legs should extend sideways rather than downward.

Work several rows until the leg reaches the desired length.

At the end of the leg, begin making the toes.

The toe detail in the chart uses chains and single crochet.

For one toe:

Ch 3.

Beginning in the **2nd ch from hook**, work **1 sc**.

Work **1 sc in the next chain**.

Use a **sl st** to anchor the toe back to the foot.

Repeat this process for each toe.

The finished feet should have several rounded projections resembling crocodile toes.

Make the second front leg in the same way.

Try to keep both front legs equal in length and width.

For the **hind legs**, follow the same general technique, but notice that their attachment point is lower on the body.

The hind legs shown in the chart are slightly angled and have rounded feet.

Work the leg section outward.

Then repeat the chain-and-single-crochet method for each toe.

Make all four legs before final finishing so you can compare them.

If the legs were made separately, position them carefully and sew them to the body using a yarn needle and matching green yarn.

Make several passes through the stitches when sewing. Because this is a rug, the leg attachments need to withstand regular movement and washing.

Step 4 – Crochet the Neck and Head

After the lower body and hind-leg area, continue into the **neck**.

The chart shows the body narrowing briefly before expanding again into the crocodile head.

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Work gradually shorter rows to form the neck transition.

Then begin increasing again as you enter the upper part of the head.

The head should become much wider than the neck.

Continue working back and forth in rows.

Add increases near both outer edges to create the broad triangular crocodile face.

The face is widest around the eye area and then gradually narrows toward the snout.

Take time to maintain symmetry.

Count the stitches on the left and right side of the center whenever possible.

If one side becomes noticeably wider, correct it during the next row by adjusting the increase placement.

The lower snout shown in the chart becomes gently rounded rather than sharply pointed.

Near the bottom of the head, gradually decrease the row width.

The final row should create a softly curved tip.

Fasten off the green yarn and weave the end securely into the back of the rug.

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Step 5 – Make the Crocodile Eyes

The chart shows **two raised green eye sections** with safety eyes inserted in the center.

Make a small circular crochet piece for each eye.

You can begin with a magic ring or a very short chain joined into a ring.

Work **dc stitches around the center**.

Increase evenly until you have a small circle large enough to frame the safety eye.

The chart recommends using **12–14 mm safety eyes**.

Insert the safety eye through the center of the crocheted circle.

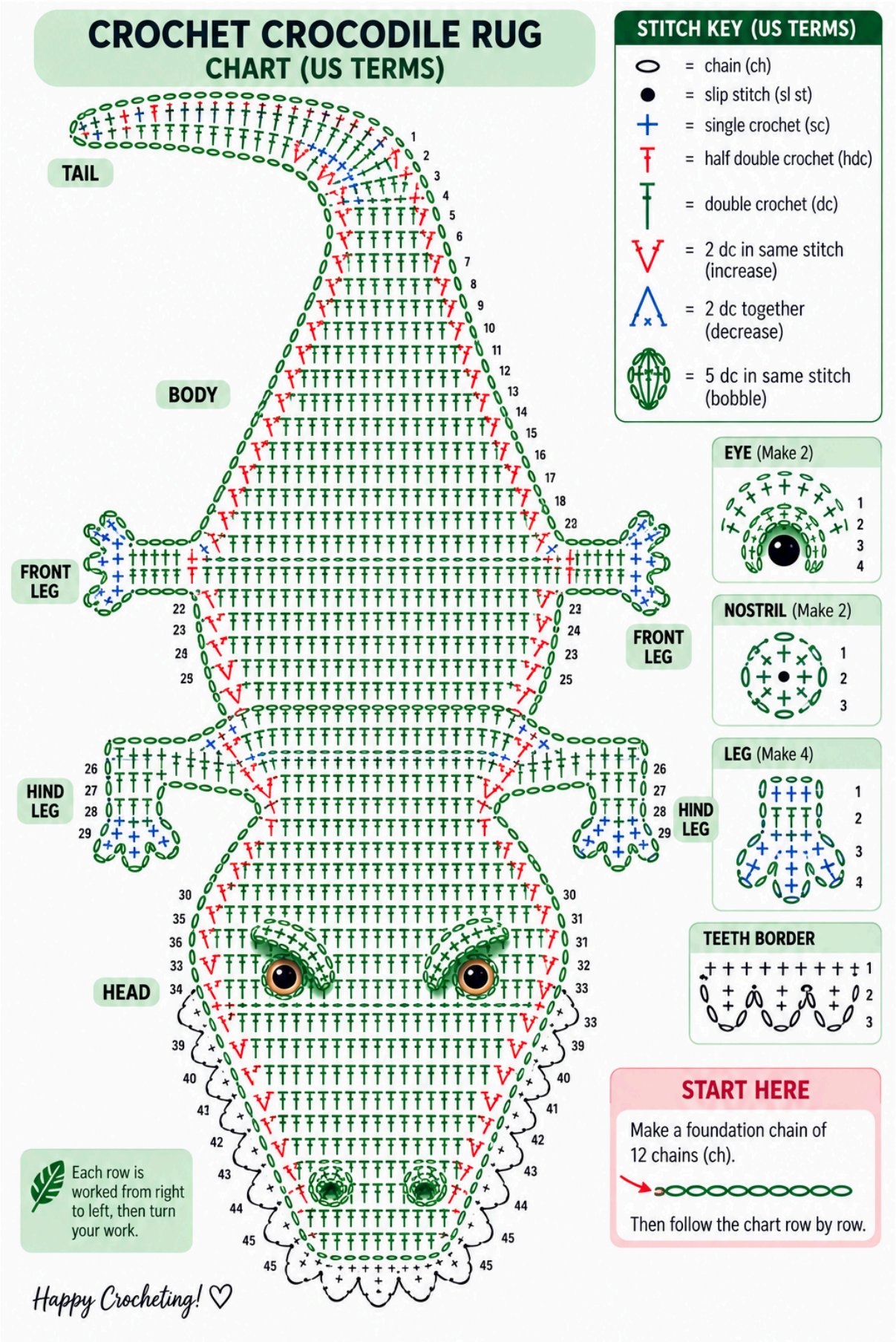
If the rug will be used in a home with very young children or pets, consider using securely embroidered eyes instead of removable plastic parts.

Sew each crocheted eye circle onto the head in the positions shown in the diagram.

The eyes should sit symmetrically on opposite sides of the face.

Before permanently sewing them, place both eyes on the head and step back to check their position.

When you are satisfied, stitch around the entire eye circle with matching green yarn.



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Step 6 – Crochet the Raised Nostrils

The nostrils are made using the **bobble technique** shown in the detail section.

Position the nostrils near the lower section of the snout.

For each nostril, work a raised cluster consisting of approximately **5 dc worked into the same stitch or base point**.

This cluster creates a small rounded bump.

Secure the bobble firmly.

If working the nostril separately, leave a long yarn tail and sew the bobble onto the snout.

Repeat for the second nostril.

Place both nostrils the same distance from the center.

The nostrils can remain green for a subtle dimensional effect.

Step 7 – Crochet the White Teeth

One of the most distinctive features of the crocodile rug is the row of **white teeth** surrounding the mouth.

Attach white yarn near one side of the head.

Work along the mouth edge using a combination of:

single crochet

chains

and **slip stitches**.

The goal is to create repeated pointed or scalloped teeth.

A simple tooth can be formed by working into the edge, making a short chain, and then returning toward the base with slip stitches or single crochet.

Continue repeating the tooth pattern evenly around one side of the head.

Work across the front of the snout.

Then continue up the opposite side.

The finished border should look like a row of small triangular teeth.

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The diagram shows the teeth more prominently around the lower and side edges of the head rather than around the entire crocodile.

Keep the teeth similar in size for a neat appearance.

If necessary, adjust the spacing slightly so the final tooth ends naturally at the opposite side.

Fasten off the white yarn and weave in the end.

Step 8 – Refine the Crocodile Shape

Lay the entire rug flat.

Check the **tail, body, four legs, head, eyes, nostrils, and teeth**.

The tail should curve gently to one side.

The body should be broad and flat.

The front legs should extend outward near the upper body.

The hind legs should extend outward near the lower body.

The head should appear wider near the eyes and taper slightly toward the snout.

If an edge curls inward, gently block the rug.

For cotton yarn, you can lightly dampen the project and shape it flat.

Pin the rug into the desired outline and allow it to dry completely.

Do not stretch individual sections excessively.

Step 9 – Weave In All Yarn Ends

Turn the rug over and inspect the back.

Thread each yarn tail onto a yarn needle.

Weave the yarn through several stitches.

Change direction and weave through another group of stitches.

Trim the excess only after the yarn is secure.

Pay special attention to the leg attachments, eyes, nostrils, and teeth because these areas receive more movement.

The back should be as neat as possible, especially if you plan to add non-slip backing.

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Step 10 – Add Optional Non-Slip Backing

A crocheted rug can slide on smooth floors.

For better safety, you can attach a **non-slip rug pad** underneath.

Cut the backing slightly smaller than the crocodile body so it does not show from the front.

Hand-sew it to the underside in several locations.

Do not pull the stitches too tightly because that could distort the rug.

You can also use a removable non-slip pad placed beneath the finished rug.

The chart specifically recommends considering a **non-slip rug pad underneath for safety**.

Finished Size

The approximate finished measurements shown in the chart are:

Length: 35 inches (90 cm)

Body width: 18 inches (45 cm)

These measurements are only a guide.

A heavier yarn and larger hook will make a larger rug.

A thinner yarn and smaller hook will produce a smaller crocodile.

For a floor rug, thicker cotton or T-shirt yarn usually gives the most substantial result.

How to Adjust the Size

To make a larger crocodile, use thicker yarn and a larger hook.

This is usually easier than trying to add many extra rows because it preserves the original proportions of the chart.

For a smaller version, use medium-weight yarn with an appropriately smaller hook.

Whatever yarn you choose, make a small test swatch.

Check that the fabric is firm enough to remain flat.

If the crochet feels too stiff, increase the hook size slightly.

If the stitches feel loose or open, decrease the hook size.

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Tips for Keeping the Rug Flat

Keep your **crochet tension even** from beginning to end.

If the edges begin waving, you may be increasing too frequently.

If the work begins curling upward, you may not be increasing enough.

Make shaping adjustments gradually.

Spread increases across several rows instead of placing a large number into one row.

Place the rug on a flat surface frequently while working.

This allows you to identify shaping problems before they become difficult to fix.

When forming the long tail, remember that a controlled amount of asymmetrical shaping is desirable because the finished tail is supposed to curve.

Understanding the Main Increase Symbols

The chart contains several red increase symbols.

When you see an **sc increase**, work:

2 sc in the same stitch.

When you see an **hdc increase**, work:

2 hdc in the same stitch.

When you see a **dc increase**, work:

2 dc in the same stitch.

The increases are positioned mainly around the outer edges of the tail, body, neck, and head.

These increases are what create the crocodile silhouette.

Always work them in approximately the same position shown in the chart.

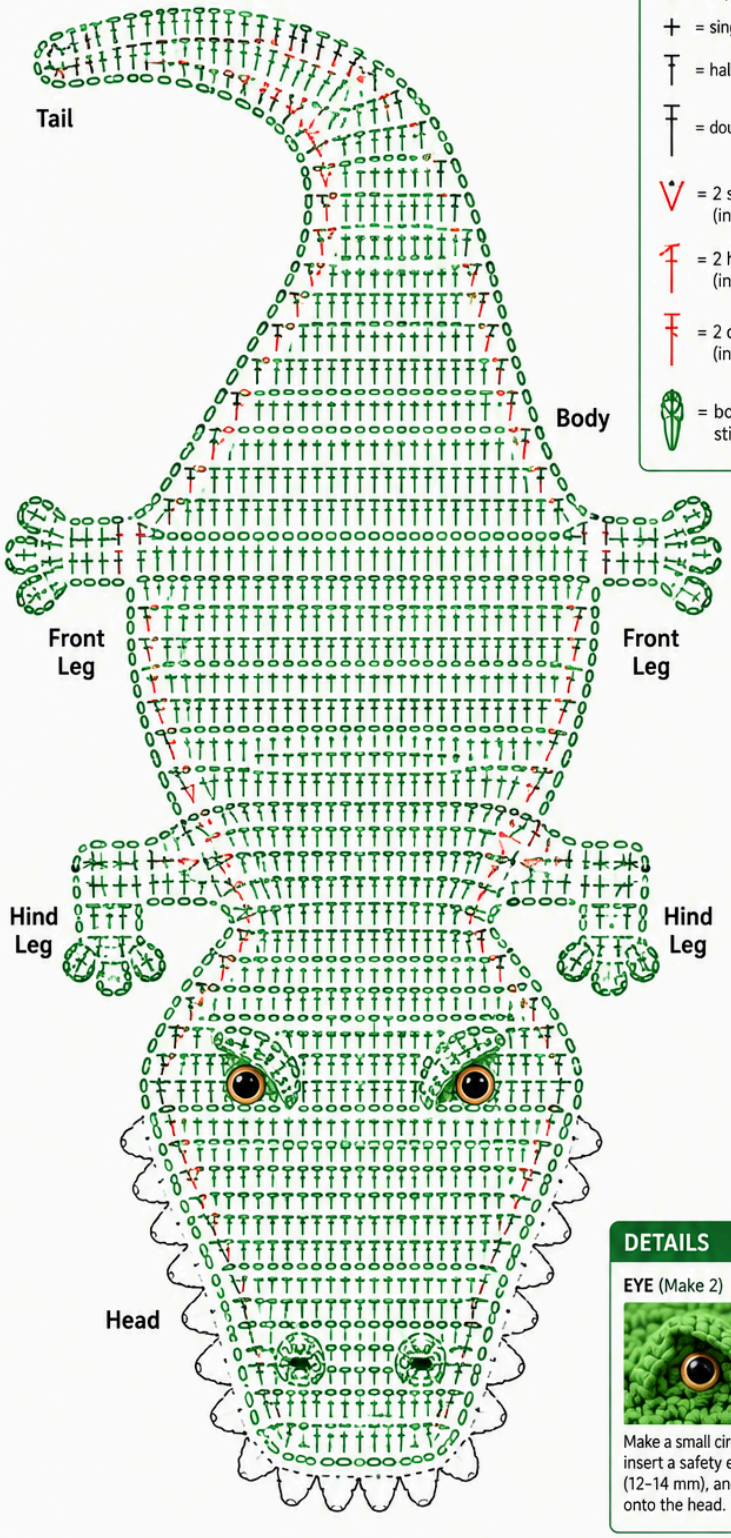
Assembly Summary

The chart describes the project in six main construction stages.

1. Tail: Start at the narrow tip and increase gradually while shaping the curve.

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CROCHET CROCODILE RUG
CHART & PATTERN



STITCH LEGEND (US TERMS)

- = chain (ch)
- = slip stitch (sl st)
- = single crochet (sc)
- = half double crochet (hdc)
- = double crochet (dc)
- = 2 sc in same stitch (increase)
- = 2 hdc in same stitch (increase)
- = 2 dc in same stitch (increase)
- = bobble (5 dc in same stitch)

FINISHED RUG



FINISHED SIZE (approx.)

Length: 90 cm (35 in)
Width (body): 45 cm (18 in)

Size may vary depending on yarn and hook used.

INSTRUCTIONS (BY PARTS)

1. TAIL
Start at the tip. Work in rows, increasing as shown in the chart. The tail curves slightly to one side.

2. BODY
Continue working in rows, following the chart. Increase on both sides to shape the body.

3. LEGS (Make 4)
Each leg is worked separately and then sewn to the body. Create the toes using chains and single crochets.

4. HEAD
Work the head section following the chart. Add the eyes and nostrils.

5. TEETH
Work a white scalloped edge around the mouth area using single crochet, chain and slip stitch.

6. ASSEMBLY
All parts are worked as one piece following the chart. Add safety eyes and embroider details if desired.

DETAILS

EYE (Make 2)

Make a small circle of dc, insert a safety eye (12–14 mm), and sew onto the head.

NOSTRIL (Make 2)



Work 5 dc in the same stitch (bobble), then secure. Sew onto the snout.

TOES



Ch 3, sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next ch, sl st into base. Repeat for each toe.

TIPS

- Use thick cotton or t-shirt yarn for a sturdy rug.
- You can adjust the size by using a larger or smaller hook and yarn.
- Safety eyes give a nice finishing touch, but you can also crochet or embroider the eyes.
- Keep your tension even for a smooth shape.
- You can add non-slip rug pad underneath for safety.
- Feel free to customize the colors!

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2. Body: Continue working in rows, widening the fabric on both sides until the body reaches its full width.

3. Legs: Make four legs and form each foot using chains and single crochet for the toes.

4. Head: Shape the head according to the chart, widening around the eye area and narrowing toward the snout.

5. Teeth: Add a white scalloped or pointed border around the mouth.

6. Assembly and details: Secure the legs if they were made separately, add the eyes and nostrils, weave in the ends, and block the rug.

Final Crochet Tips 🐊

Use **thick cotton or T-shirt yarn** if you want a durable rug with enough weight to stay flat.

Keep the yarn tension consistent throughout the body and head.

Make both front legs before sewing them on so you can compare their dimensions.

Do the same with the hind legs.

When making the toes, keep the chains approximately equal in length.

Place the eyes temporarily before securing them so you can check the expression.

You can use plastic safety eyes, crocheted eyes, or embroidered eyes depending on how the rug will be used.

Add an anti-slip backing if the rug will be placed on tile, wood, laminate, or another smooth floor.

The colors are completely customizable. Traditional green gives the project its classic crocodile appearance, but olive green, dark forest green, teal, or even colorful novelty combinations can make the design unique.

Once all ends are secured and the rug has been blocked flat, your **Crochet Crocodile Rug** is ready to use. The combination of the curved tail, wide body, four dimensional feet, raised eyes, nostrils, and white teeth creates the same playful crocodile appearance shown in the original chart.