

# WITCH CRAFTS

## The Purple Spider

by Vanessa Walilko

Inspired by a story by Mortellus

Priestex, necromancer, witch, and mortician Mortellus told a story about their child seeing the same imaginary friend their sister did 30 years ago.

I was so inspired by the story that I created a pattern for The Purple Spider, the trickster spirit and protector of children. Make yourself your own Purple Spider if you need a guardian to watch over you... and tell you where the good chocolate is.

### Materials:

- One skein of Madrid Loops and threads yarn
- K crochet hook
- One pair of 10mm black safety eyes
- Two-six 4mm black beads
- Polyester fiber fill

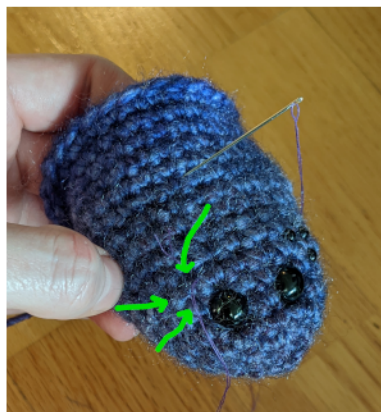
You can make this pattern using any type of yarn. Just use a crochet hook that is two sizes smaller than what's recommended.



### Start with the **cephalothorax**:

1. Magic crochet 3 in circle
2. Inc in each stitch around (6)
3. Inc in each stitch around (12)
4. (sc 1, increase) around (18)
5. sc in each stitch around (18)
6. sc in each stitch around (18)
7. sc 4, inc, SC 8, inc, inc, sc 4 (20)
8. sc in each stitch around (20)
9. sc 4, inc, inc, sc 8, inc, inc, SC 4 (24)
10. sc in each stitch around (24)
11. sc 5, inc, inc, sc 10, inc, inc, sc 5 (28)
- 12-17. sc in each stitch around (28)\*
18. sc 5, dec, dec, sc 10, dec, dec, sc 5 (24)
19. sc in each stitch around (24)
20. sc 4, dec, dec, sc 8, dec, dec, sc 4 (20)
21. sc 4, dec, sc 8, dec, sc 4 (18)
22. (sc, dec) around (12)
23. sc around (12)

\* I recommend adding the eyes after adding all of these 28-stitch rounds. Spiders have anywhere from 2-8 eyes. I like using 8, with 3 smaller beads flanking the 10mm eye shanks and nesting inside of the surrounding crochet stitches. Make sure to sew the eyes on securely, especially if you're giving this to a young kiddo.



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Stuff the **cephalothorax** with polyester fiberfill. Now we'll start increasing stitches to shape the abdomen:

24. (sc, inc) x 6 in front loops only (18)
25. sc around (18)
26. (sc 2, inc) x 6 (24)
27. sc around (24)
28. (sc 3, inc) x 6 (30)
29. sc around (30)
30. (sc 4, inc) x 6 (36)
31. sc around (36)
32. (sc 5, inc) x 6 (42)

33. sc around (42)
34. (sc 6, inc) x 6 (48)
- 35-40. sc around (48)
41. (sc 6, dec) x 6 (42)
42. sc around (42)
43. (sc 5, dec) x 6 (36)
44. (sc 4, dec) x 6 (30)
45. (sc 3, dec) x 6 (24)
46. (sc 2, dec) x 6 (18)

47. (sc 1, dec) x 6 (12)

**Now it's time to stuff your abdomen with fiber fill**

48. dec x 6 (6)
49. dec around (3). If you can only squeeze in 2 decreases, that's okay. Use the tail of your yarn to close up the abdomen

**Legs!** Make 8 of the following:

1. Magic crochet 3
2. inc around (6)
- 3-17. sc in each stitch around (6)

We're now going to create two short rows to make a flap that will bend into a joint. Beginning of the flap: Sc 3, ch 1, turn. Sc 3, ch, turn.

Now we're going to integrate this bend into the leg. Sc 3, dec by drawing up a loop through the side of the flap you just added and pulling a loop up through the first stitch in leg that is not on that bend flap you just created.

Sc 1, then dec by pulling up a loop from the last stitch on the leg and pulling up a loop on the second side of the flap. (fig. 2). Lightly stuff each of the legs before the bend.  
18-32. sc around (6). Lightly stuff the rest of the legs.

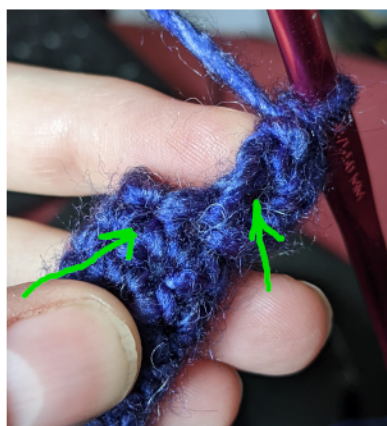


fig. 1



fig. 1a



fig. 2

**Pedipalps** (make 2):

1. Magic crochet 3
2. Inc around (6)
- 3-17. sc around (6)

**Now it's time to start attaching the legs and pedipalps to the body.**

Leave all of the threads because you might want to reposition the legs and pedipalps after you've added all of them

**Then add the first set of legs**, close to the pedipalps but not touching. (fig 3)  
**Then add the second set of back legs**, almost adjacent to the very back legs (fig 4)  
**Finally, add the second pair of front legs** (fig 5)



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3

**Start with the pedipalps.**

They're fairly close together at the front of the cephalothorax. Use a yarn needle and scrap yarn to sew them in place (fig 1).

**Next add the very back legs.**

Give some space in between the connection of the cephalothorax/abdomen (fig 2)



fig. 4



fig. 5