# Possum Palace



**This pattern has been shared with the designers permission exclusively for the use of members of the Animal Rescue Craft Guild (Australia) to create items for injured, orphaned, displaced, drought and bushfire affected wildlife.**

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**Key**

St = stitch

dc = double crochet (UK terms) in US terms this would refer to a sc

Ch = chain

Blo= Back loop only

Dc2tog = double crochet 2 together, otherwise known as a decrease (in US terms this would be sc2tog)

Dc2tog Blo= double crochet 2 together in back loops only

Inv dec = invisible decrease (I explain how to do this below in the fancy stitch guide)

Little advice here, use a stitch marker in the last stitch of each row as this piece is worked in continued spiral so it is easy to lose where you are up to. If you don't have a stitch marker a safety pin or even a bobby pin work just as well.

**Fancy stitch guide**

Invisible decrease (inv dec):
1. Insert hook through front loop only of next stitch (2 loops on hook)
2. Insert hook through front loop only of next stitch (3 loops on hook)
3. Put your yarn over and pull through 2 loops (2 loops on hook)
4. Yarn over and pull through last 2 loops

**Yarn and hook size selection**

As all you fabulous crafters are aware the yarn thickness and your hook size will determine how large or small your finished pod will end up. Basically you need to be able to fit your hand through the opening comfortably (which will give the wonderful carers easy access to the critters)

I used 3 strands of 8 ply yarn crocheted together (I actually used spotsaver USA style by 4 seasons from spotlight) and used a 6.5 mm hook to ensure a tight crochet (very important).

Make sure before you start that your yarn is able to go through the washing machine as the carers will need to be able to stick them in the washer.

R1: Magic circle and make 6 DC into ring
R2: (dc2 into next stitch)x6 (12)
R3: (dc1 into next st, dc2 into next st) x6 (18)
R4: (dc into next 2 sts, dc2 into next st) x6 (24)
R5: (dc into next 3 sts, dc2 into next st) x6 (30)
R6: (dc into next 4 sts, dc2 into next st) x6 (36)
R7: (dc into next 5 sts, dc2 into next st) x6 (42)
R8: (dc into next 6 sts, dc2 into next st) x6 (48)
R9: (dc into next 7 sts, dc2 into next st) x6 (54)
R10: (dc into next 8 sts, dc2 into next st) x6 (60)
R11: (dc into next 9 sts, dc2 into next st) x6 (66)
R12: (dc into next 10 sts, dc2 into next st) x6 (72)
Your base should now measure at least 24 cm diameter.

R13: 1dc in Blo of each stitch (72)



R14-R20: 1 dc in each st around (72)

Now we start making the possum doorway, remember to turn your work and ensure that you dc in the very last dc and of the previous round, you may find it helpful to put a stitch marker in the first dc of each row so that

on the way back you can find where you are meant to go easily, oh and stick the kettle on.



R21: Chain 1, turn work, dc in next 62 stitches (put your first dc into the one directly underneath the sc and place your stitch marker) (62dc + 1sc)
R22: Chain 1, turn work, dc in next 62 st (62dc +1 chain)
R23: Chain 1, turn work, dc in next 62 st (62dc+1chain)
R24: Chain 1, turn work, dc in next 62 st (62dc+1chain)
R25: Chain 1, turn work, dc in next 62 st (62dc+1chain)
R26: Chain1, turn work, dc in next 62 st (62dc+1chain)
R27: Chain 1, turn work, dc in next 62 st (62dc+1chain)
R28: Chain 1, turn work, dc in next 62 st, 10 chain (62dc+11chain)

Now we will close the doorway by working the first st into the first dc after the gap (see picture to help visualise).

R29: Dc into first dc after the gap, dc in each st around (should be 62 dc), 10 dc into 10 chain space (72)
R30-R34: Dc in each st (72)

Again we are now going to work in the BLO, this is important as we will need to have the front loops to work into later in the pattern. By working in the back loop you should have a very clear line by the end of the row.

R35: (Dc in Blo next 10 st, dc2tog blo (inv dec)) x6 (66)
R36: (Dc in next 9 st, dc2tog (inv dec)) x6 (60)
R37: (Dc in next 8st, dc2tog (inv dec)) x6 (54)
R38: (Dc in next 7st, dc2tog (inv dec)) x6 (48)
R39: (Dc in next 6st, dc2tog (inv dec)) x6 (42)
R40: (Dc in next 5st, dc2tog (inv dec)) x6 (36)
R41: (Dc in next 4st, dc2tog (inv dec)) x6 (30)
R42: (Dc in next 3st, dc2tog (inv dec)) x6 (24)
R43: (Dc in next 2st, dc2tog (inv dec)) x6 (18)
R44: (Dc in next st, dc2tog (inv dec)) x6 (12)
R45:(Dc2tog (inv dec)) x6 (6)

Cut yarn and weave through pulling hole closed, weave in ends and secure.

R46: Attatch yarn to any front loop of round 35, sc and dc into same stitch, dc into each st around (72)


R47-48: Dc into each st (72)
R49: Dc into next 11 st, 12 chain, dc in next 20 st, 12 chain, dc next 20 st, 12 chain, dc in next 21 st, 12 chain (72dc + 48 chain)

Have a look at the picture, you should now have four loops at the top of your work

R50: Dc in each DC, 12 dc in each 12 chain loop (120dc)

Cut yarn and weave in securely, stand back and admire you little possum palace ensuring large glass of wine in hand and camera, hang on something and insert soft toy then take a photo of your hand crippling masterpiece x

Happy crocheting and thinking of all our weird, wonderful and unique Australian wildlife and the amazing people who give so much to help them when they need it xxxx
Thank you, any suggestions are more than welcome (I am on instagram (mariawawoczny) and will answer anything as I am able)

Love Maria xx