

ARC Craft Guild Crochet Nests



Crochet nests, along with pouches, are the ‘bread and butter’ of the ARC craft guild. We aim to provide every rescuer and veterinary clinic in Australia with at least a few of these. Nests are extremely versatile and are used in the rescue of baby marsupials, birds, reptiles, and even kittens love snuggling up in them!

It’s important that you keep your stitches tight and consistent so that the nest is sturdy. Baby birds will perch on the sides and the nest needs to hold their weight. The nest should be able to hold itself upright without slouching.

Nest Sizes

	<i>Base Diameter</i>		<i>Strands of 8ply</i>
X-Small	5-8 cm	2-3"	2
Small	8-12 cm	3.5-5"	2
Medium	12-16 cm	5-6.5"	2
Large	16-22 cm	6.5-9"	2-3
X-Large	22-30 cm	9-12"	3
Pelican	30-35 cm	12-14"	3+



The height of your nest’s sides should be the same as its base diameter, plus 1 cm (0.5") for XS-M nests, and plus 2-3 cm (1") for large sizes. This is so nest sides can be folded over for extra strength, or to create a deeper nest for birds that nest in tree hollows.

Nest your nests!

We love receiving ‘nested’ nests, Russian Doll-style. It ensures we receive a good variety of sizes, and makes it really easy to send to carers as a full set.

What yarn to use

Nests are a great scrap-buster. Always ensure all ends are firmly woven in so beaks and claws can’t loosen or unravel them.

The best yarn for nests is a simple acrylic yarn. We recommend using at least 2 strands of 8ply with a 5, 5.5, or 6mm hook. Wool is the next preferred yarn. Cotton or linen may be used, but only as a last resort.

Do not use fuzzy, sparkly, or specialty yarns.



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Crochet Pattern

The anatomy of a crochet nest is:

- A flat circle worked in the round as a spiral until the desired diameter
- First row of the sides is worked into the front loop only
- Sides are crocheted in a spiral until the desired height

Supplies Needed

- 2 balls of 8ply acrylic or acrylic-blend yarns
- 5mm (size H) crochet hook (or slightly larger if using bulkier yarn or using 3 strands)
- Stitch marker

Starting the Circle

This pattern is written in US terminology.

1. **Foundational round 1:** Create a magic ring and single crochet (sc) 6 times into it. Tighten the ring to create a circle. Slip stitch into the first stitch.
2. **Foundational round 2:** Chain 1. Sc twice into each of the 6 stitches so you have 12 in total. Place your stitch marker into the last sc.
3. **Round 1:** Now, we'll start working in a spiral so you don't have to join each round (but you can, if you prefer). *Sc in the next stitch, then sc twice into the next stitch.* Repeat from * the whole way around until you meet your stitch marker.
4. **Round 2:** *Sc in the next two stitches, then sc twice into the following stitch.* Repeat from * the whole way around until you meet your stitch marker.
5. **Round 3:** *Sc in the next three stitches, then sc twice into the following stitch.* Repeat from * the whole way around until you meet your stitch marker.



An 8cm nest base circle. You can just see the hexagon shape beginning.

Starting to see a pattern? For every round, crochet that many sc and then sc twice into the following stitch, and repeat.

You'll start to notice a slight hexagonal shape taking place – that's absolutely fine! This actually makes it easier. You can sc between each hexagonal 'corner', then when you come across the previous round's double sc, do another double into the second sc.

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Making the Sides

1. When your circle is the desired diameter, switch to crocheting in the front loop only. This will make the sides curve up. Instead of crocheting through the V of the stitch, pick up only the front of the V (the side that's facing you). Sc in each front loop the whole way around the circle.
2. When you've completed the circle, return so crocheting normal single crochets through both sides of the V.
3. Continue your spiral upwards until the sides are the desired height (same as the diameter plus a few rows depending on the size you're making).



The hook is inserted in the front loop only, the half of the V that is facing you.

Tips & Tricks

The magic circle: We *highly recommend* using a magic ring instead of any other starting method, as the middle circle needs to be cinched closed quite tightly. Learn how to do this here: <https://hearthookhome.com/make-magic-circle-crocheting-round/>

Finishing: We recommend an invisible join, followed by securely weaving in all ends. This is a lot easier to see done: <https://hearthookhome.com/make-invisible-join-crochet/>

