

# OPERATION GRATITUDE



## Hacky Sack Ball

Pattern designed and provided by  
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**Size:** Approx 2.5 inches diameter

**Yarn:** Worsted weight (#4), in any color or combination of colors

**Hook:** 3.5 mm ( E).

**Materials:** Filling = popcorn kernels, dried peas, lentils, any small beans, **No Rice**.

A funnel and a Large eye needle.

**Optional (nice, but not necessary):** Stitch Markers: (I prefer to use a small piece of yarn)

Row Counter: (You can keep count with a pencil and paper)

### Abbreviations:

MR = magic ring

sc = single crochet

ss = slip stitch

inc = increase

dec = decrease

R = round or row

ch = chain

sts = stitches

\_\_\_ x = number of times to repeat what is in {brackets}

**NOTE:** Ball is crocheted in continuous rounds. Do not join. Use stitch markers or yarn to mark rows. I used a 3.5 mm hook and worsted weight acrylic yarn.

### Directions:

#### Increase Rows:

R1: 6 Sc in MR = (6 sts)

R2: inc in each st around = (12 sts)

R3: {sc1, inc} 6x = (18 sts)

R4: {sc2, inc} 6x = (24 sts)

R5: {sc3, inc} 6x = (30 sts)

R6: {sc4, inc} 6x = (36 sts) (remember to tighten MR)

**(Piece should measure 2.25 to 2.50 inches across at this point.)**

R7-12: sc around (6 rows) = (36 sts)

#### Decrease Rows:

R13: {sc4, dec} 6x = (30 sts)

R14: {sc3, dec} 6x = (24 sts)

R15: {sc2, dec} 6x = (18 sts)

Fill about 80% full with popcorn kernels. Use a small water bottle for a funnel, upside down, cut off, to fill. Other filling choices include small beans or dried peas. **Do not use rice**. It can seep out through the holes.



R16: {sc1, dec} 6x = (12 sts)

R17: dec 6x = (6 sts)

ss in next st. and fasten off.

Cut yarn, leaving a long tail.

Close hole and weave in the end.

**Finished Hacky Sacks should weigh approximately 1.5 to 2.5 oz.**

**NOTE:** If you wish to attach a small card with your name and email address, we encourage you to do so. Business card size or less is preferable. Please use sturdy card stock, not plain paper. Just punch a hole in the card and attach with a piece of yarn. Thanks!

**\*\*\*\* EXTRA Hacky Sack TIPS and LINKS  
plus an Introduction to Amigurumi Techniques.**

I used Worsted weight **yarn** and a size 3.5 mm **crochet hook** (aka #4 or E). If you crochet very tight, you may be able to use a size 4.0 mm (aka #6 or G). Try different size hooks to see which works best for you. The main concern is having the holes small enough so none of the **filling** gets out.

Crocheting a hacky sack ball by crocheting in the round using a single crochet stitch will teach you the basics of making amigurumi.

I use the **YARN UNDER** technique, **INVISIBLE INCREASE** and **INVISIBLE DECREASE**, and the **MAGIC RING** aka **Magic Circle**. Here are some links that may be helpful. Try searching for different ways if these don't work for you. I like Planet June's videos because she does both Right and Left hand versions.

**Magic Ring:** <https://www.planetjune.com/blog/how-to-make-a-magic-ring-in-crochet-video/>

Alternate: SC 2 st, and crochet into the first stitch.

**Invisible Decrease:** <https://www.planetjune.com/blog/invisible-decrease-for-amigurumi-video/>

Alternate: SC 2 stitches together.

**Invisible increase:** sc in front loop only of next stitch, then sc in both loops of same stitch.

<https://www.planetjune.com/blog/invisible-increase-for-amigurumi/>

Alternate: SC 2 sts into one stitch.

**Closing the Hole:** <https://youtu.be/SMkNQAZ5Si0>