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CROCHET RAINBOW LION

STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL



Make your own adorable Rainbow Lion!

SKILL LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE ★★☆

FINISHED SIZE: Approx. 16 cm (6.25 in) tall (sitting)

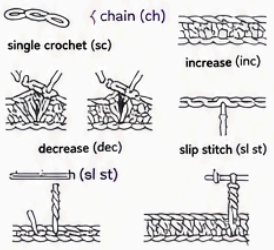
MATERIALS

- Worsted weight yarn (4) in the following colors:
  - Yellow / Gold (body)
  - Red (mane)
  - Orange (mane)
  - Yellow (mane)
  - Green (mane)
  - Turquoise / Blue (mane)
  - Purple (mane)
  - Pink (mane)
  - White (muzzle, paws)
  - Black (nose, details)
- **Crochet hook:** 3.5 mm (E/4)
- Safety eyes: 10 mm
- Fiberfill stuffing
- Yarn needle
- Stitch marker
- Scissors

ABBREVIATIONS (US TERMS)

MR	Magic Ring
ch	chain
sc	single crochet
inc	increase (2 sc in next st)
dec	decrease (sc 2 together)
hdc	half double crochet
dc	double crochet
sl st	slip stitch
( )	repeat instructions in parentheses
[ ]	total number of stitches at the end of the round

BASIC STITCHES (US TERMS)



YARN COLORS USED (mane and details)



1 HEAD (in Yellow)



Use a magic ring.

R1: 6 sc in MR [6]
R2: inc around [12]
R3: (sc, inc) x6 [18]
R4: (2 sc, inc) x6 [24]
R5: (3 sc, inc) x6 [30]
R6: (4 sc, inc) x6 [36]
R7–R12: sc around [36]
R13: (4 sc, dec) x6 [30]
R14: (3 sc, dec) x6 [24]
R15: (2 sc, dec) x6 [18]
R16: (sc, dec) x6 [12]
Stuff firmly.
R17: dec around [6]
Fasten off, leave a long tail.
Insert safety eyes between R9–R10, 6–7 sts apart.

2 MUZZLE (in White)



Use a magic ring.
R1: 6 sc in MR [6]
R2: inc around [12]
R3: (sc, inc) x6 [18]
Fasten off, leave a tail.
Sew to the front of the head between R11–R15.

NOSE (in Black)

Ch 5.
R1: sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc, hdc, 3 hdc in last ch. On the other side of the chain: hdc, sc, sl st.
Fasten off, leave a tail.
Sew to the center of the muzzle.

3 EARS (Make 2, in Yellow)



Use a magic ring.
R1: 6 sc in MR [6]
R2: inc around [12]
R3: sc around [12]
Fasten off, leave a tail.
Fold slightly and sew on each side of the head (R5–R8).

INNER EAR (Make 2, in Brown)

Use a magic ring.
R1: 6 sc in MR [6]
R2: inc around [12]
Fasten off, leave a tail.
Sew inside each ear.

4 MANE (Make many loops)

Cut yarn into pieces about 10–12 cm (4–5 in) for each color.



Fold each piece in half, insert hook into the head (around R3–R8), pull the loop through, and pull the yarn ends through the loop. Pull tight.

Repeat all around the head using all rainbow colors. Make 2–3 loops per color.

5 BODY (in Yellow)



R1: 6 sc in MR [6]
R2: inc around [12]
R3: (sc, inc) x6 [18]
R4: (2 sc, inc) x6 [24]
R5–R10: sc around [24]
Stuff firmly.
R11: (2 sc, dec) x6 [18]
R12: (sc, dec) x6 [12]
Fasten off, leave a long tail.
Sew the head to the body.

6 FRONT LEGS (Make 2, in Yellow)



R1: 6 sc in MR [6]
R2: inc around [12]
R3–R8: sc around [12]
Change to white.
R9–R10: sc around [12]
Fasten off, leave a tail.
Flatten the top and sew to the front of the body.

7 BACK LEGS (Make 2, in Yellow)



R1: 6 sc in MR [6]
R2: inc around [12]
R3–R9: sc around [12]
Change to white.
R10–R11: sc around [12]
Fasten off, leave a tail.
Flatten and sew to the back of the body.

8 TAIL (in Yellow)



Ch 18.
Start in 2nd ch from hook: sc in each ch across [17]
Fasten off, leave a tail.
Make a tuft with leftover mane yarn (wrap yarn around fingers, tie in the middle, trim loops).
Attach tuft to the end of the tail and sew the tail to the back of the body.

9 ASSEMBLY



- Sew the muzzle to the head.
- Sew the nose onto the muzzle.
- Embroider the mouth (down from nose with black yarn) and whiskers (3 on each side with white yarn).
- Sew the ears on both sides of the head.

10 PAW DETAILS (in Black)



Embroider 3 small lines on each white paw for toes.

FINISHED!



CARE TIPS

- Spot clean with mild soap and water.
- Do not machine wash.
- Air dry.

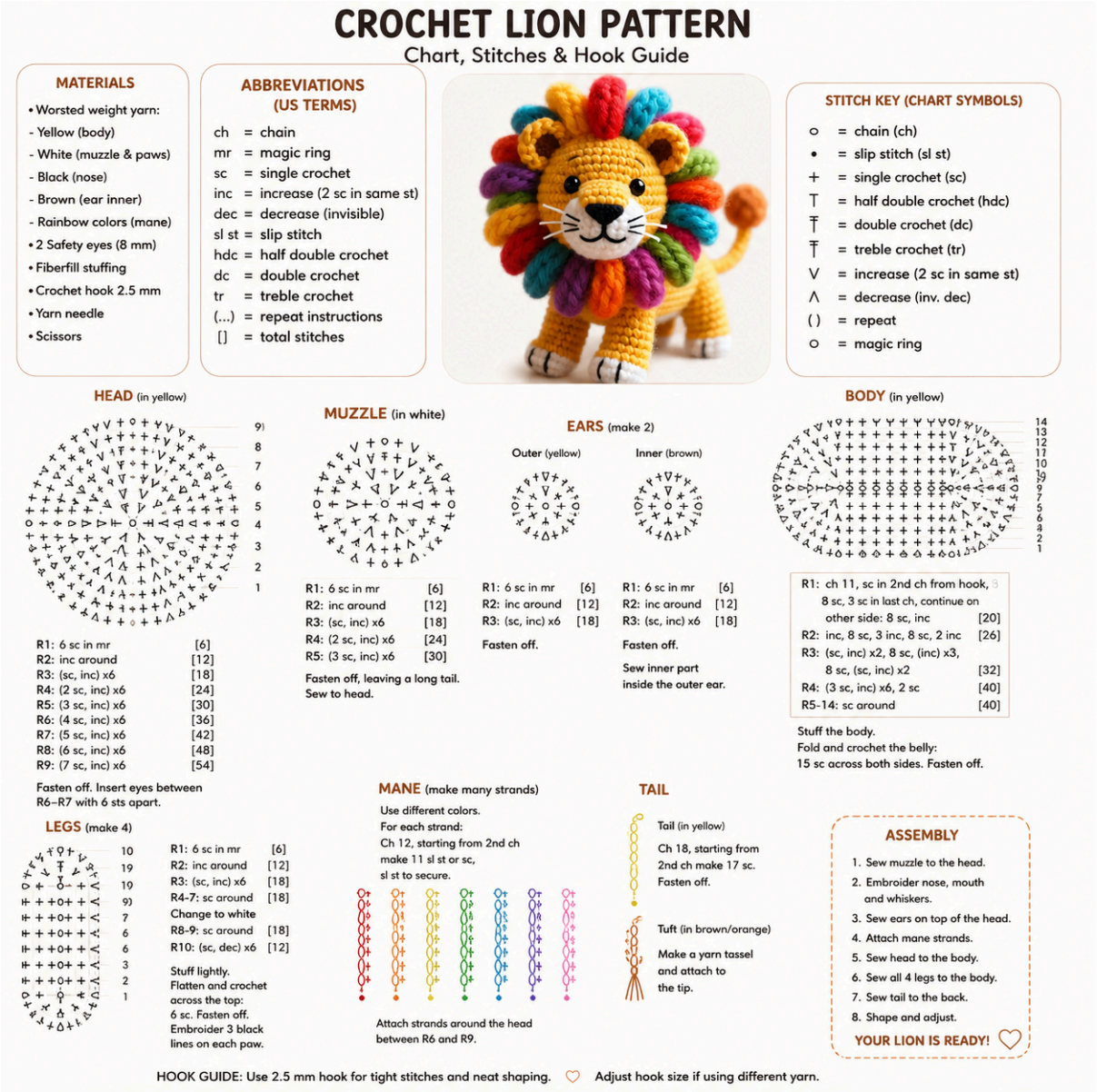
TIPS

- Use a stitch marker to keep track of rounds.
- Stuff firmly as you go for a nice shape.
- Have fun mixing colors for the mane!

SHARE YOUR CREATIONS!

We'd love to see your Rainbow Lion! Tag us on social media
#RainbowLionCrochet

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Crochet Rainbow Lion – Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial 🦁🌈

This Crochet Rainbow Lion is a cheerful amigurumi project featuring a golden-yellow body, white paws and muzzle, a colorful looped mane, and an adorable curled tail with a fluffy tuft. The instructions below follow the chart provided and use standard U.S. crochet terminology.

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The finished lion measures approximately 16 cm / 6.25 inches tall when sitting, although the exact size may vary depending on your yarn, hook, stuffing, and crochet tension.

This is an intermediate-level amigurumi project, but the instructions are written in enough detail that a crocheter who understands the basic stitches can work through the lion from beginning to end.

Materials and Supplies

For this project, use worsted-weight yarn, Weight #4.

You will need yellow or gold yarn for the head, body, ears, legs, and tail. For the rainbow mane, prepare several bright colors such as red, orange, yellow, green, turquoise or blue, purple, and pink.

Use white yarn for the muzzle and paws, brown yarn for the inner ears, and black yarn for the nose and embroidered details.

You will also need a 3.5 mm crochet hook, US E/4, two 10 mm safety eyes, polyester fiberfill stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, and scissors.

A removable stitch marker is especially helpful because most of this lion is worked in continuous spiral rounds. Do not join with a slip stitch at the end of each round unless the instructions specifically tell you to do so.

Crochet Abbreviations – US Terms

The following abbreviations are used throughout the pattern:

- **MR – Magic Ring**
- **ch – chain**

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- sc – single crochet
- inc – increase; work 2 single crochet stitches into the same stitch
- dec – decrease; single crochet 2 stitches together
- hdc – half double crochet
- dc – double crochet
- sl st – slip stitch
- ( ) x6 – repeat the instructions inside the parentheses 6 times
- [ ] – total number of stitches at the end of the round

For a cleaner amigurumi finish, you can use an invisible decrease whenever the pattern calls for a decrease.

Keep your stitches firm enough that the stuffing does not show through, but avoid crocheting so tightly that inserting the hook becomes difficult.

Step 1: Crochet the Lion's Head

Use yellow or gold yarn.

The head starts at the top and is worked downward in continuous rounds.

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: Work 6 sc into the MR. [6]

Round 2: Inc in every stitch around. [12]

Round 3: *(1 sc, inc)* 6 times. [18]

Round 4: *(2 sc, inc)* 6 times. [24]

Round 5: *(3 sc, inc)* 6 times. [30]

Round 6: *(4 sc, inc)* 6 times. [36]

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The head has now reached its main width.

Rounds 7–12: Sc in every stitch around. [36]

Before beginning the major decreases, position the two 10 mm safety eyes between Rounds 9 and 10, approximately 6–7 stitches apart.

Check the face from the front before securing the washers. The muzzle will later be positioned underneath the eyes.

Begin shaping the lower part of the head.

Round 13: *(4 sc, dec)* 6 times. [30]

Round 14: *(3 sc, dec)* 6 times. [24]

Round 15: *(2 sc, dec)* 6 times. [18]

Round 16: *(1 sc, dec)* 6 times. [12]

Stuff the head firmly and evenly with fiberfill. Add the stuffing gradually, shaping the head into a smooth rounded form.

Round 17: Dec around. [6]

Fasten off and leave a long yarn tail.

Thread the tail through the remaining stitches with a yarn needle, pull tightly to close the opening, and secure it.

Step 2: Crochet the White Muzzle

Use white yarn.

The muzzle is made as a small flat circle that will be attached to the front of the head.

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: 6 sc in MR. [6]

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Round 2: Inc around. [12]

Round 3: *(1 sc, inc)* 6 times. [18]

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

Position the muzzle on the front of the head approximately across Rounds 11–15.

Before completely sewing it down, you may place a very small amount of fiberfill beneath the muzzle if you would like a slightly raised, three-dimensional appearance.

Sew carefully around the edge using small, even stitches.

Step 3: Make the Black Nose

Use black yarn.

The chart creates a small shaped nose rather than simply embroidering a triangle.

Chain 5.

Beginning in the second chain from the hook, work:

1 sc, 1 sc, 1 hdc, then 3 hdc in the final chain.

Now continue along the opposite side of the foundation chain.

Work 1 hdc, 1 sc, and 1 sl st.

Fasten off and leave a sewing tail.

Position the black nose at the center and upper portion of the white muzzle.

Sew it securely in place.

Using black yarn and a yarn needle, embroider a short line downward from the nose. Add the curved mouth beneath it so

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that the mouth forms the friendly expression shown in the chart.

Step 4: Crochet the Outer Ears

Make 2 ears using yellow or gold yarn.

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: 6 sc in MR. [6]

Round 2: Inc around. [12]

Round 3: Sc around. [12]

Fasten off and leave a long tail.

The ears should remain relatively flat rather than heavily stuffed.

Fold each ear slightly to create a gentle cupped shape.

They will eventually be positioned on opposite sides of the head around approximately Rounds 5–8.

Do not permanently sew them to the head yet if you want to position the inner-ear pieces first.

Step 5: Crochet the Brown Inner Ears

Make 2 inner-ear pieces using brown yarn.

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: 6 sc in MR. [6]

Round 2: Inc around. [12]

Fasten off, leaving a sewing tail.

Place one brown circle inside each yellow outer ear.

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Sew it securely in place.

Once both ears are assembled, place them symmetrically on the sides of the lion's head.

The chart positions them around Rounds 5–8.

Pinning the ears temporarily can help you check their position before sewing.

Sew both ears firmly to the head.

Step 6: Create the Rainbow Mane 🌈

The rainbow mane is what gives this lion its distinctive appearance.

Instead of crocheting one large circular mane, this version uses individual folded yarn loops attached directly around the head.

Prepare yarn in your rainbow colors.

Cut strands approximately 10–12 cm / 4–5 inches long.

Try to cut the strands to approximately the same length so that the completed mane looks balanced.

Take one strand and fold it in half.

Insert your crochet hook through a stitch on the lion's head, mainly around the area from approximately Rounds 3–8.

Catch the folded center of the yarn strand with the hook and pull a loop through the stitch.

Bring both loose ends through the loop.

Pull gently but firmly to tighten.

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This creates a lark's-head-style yarn loop attached to the head.

Repeat this technique all the way around the head.

Alternate red, orange, yellow, green, turquoise, purple, pink, and your other chosen rainbow colors.

The chart recommends approximately 2–3 loops of each color, although you can add additional loops if you want a fuller mane.

Arrange the loops around the outer face while keeping the eyes, muzzle, and ears visible.

After all strands are attached, gently separate and arrange the loops with your fingers.

Avoid trimming aggressively. The slightly varied loops help give the mane its playful handmade appearance.

Step 7: Crochet the Body

Use yellow or gold yarn.

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: 6 sc in MR. [6]

Round 2: Inc around. [12]

Round 3: *(1 sc, inc)* 6 times. [18]

Round 4: *(2 sc, inc)* 6 times. [24]

Rounds 5–10: Sc around. [24]

Begin stuffing the body.

Add enough fiberfill to make the body firm while keeping its cylindrical shape.

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Round 11: ***(2 sc, dec)*** **6 times. [18]**

Round 12: ***(1 sc, dec)*** **6 times. [12]**

Finish stuffing before closing.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

The head will eventually be attached to the top of this body.

Step 8: Crochet the Front Legs

Make 2 front legs.

Begin with yellow or gold yarn.

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: 6 sc in MR. [6]

Round 2: Inc around. [12]

Rounds 3–8: Sc around. [12]

Change to white yarn.

Rounds 9–10: Sc around. [12]

Fasten off and leave a long sewing tail.

Lightly stuff each leg. The lower portion should remain nicely rounded, while the upper section can be slightly flatter to make attachment easier.

Flatten the top of each front leg.

Position the two legs at the front of the body.

Make sure the lion can sit evenly before sewing them permanently.

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Sew the flattened tops securely to the body.

Step 9: Crochet the Back Legs

Make 2 back legs.

Use yellow or gold yarn.

Make a magic ring.

Round 1: 6 sc in MR. [6]

Round 2: Inc around. [12]

Rounds 3–9: Sc around. [12]

Change to white yarn.

Rounds 10–11: Sc around. [12]

Fasten off, leaving a long sewing tail.

Lightly stuff the legs.

Flatten the upper opening and sew closed if needed.

Position the back legs toward the rear sides of the body.

Before sewing, place the body on a flat surface and check that all four legs support the lion evenly.

Sew both back legs securely to the body.

Step 10: Crochet the Tail

Use yellow or gold yarn.

Chain 18.

Beginning in the second chain from the hook, work 1 sc in each chain across.

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You should have approximately 17 sc.

Fasten off and leave a long yarn tail for attaching the tail to the body.

The crocheted chain naturally forms a thin, flexible lion tail. You can gently curve it when attaching it to recreate the upward shape shown in the finished model.

Step 11: Make the Tail Tuft

Use leftover mane yarn.

Brown, orange, or a combination of the rainbow shades can be used for the tail tuft.

Wrap the yarn several times around two or three fingers.

Carefully slide the loops from your fingers.

Tie another piece of yarn tightly around the center.

Cut the folded loops open and gently separate the strands.

Trim them until the tuft forms a small rounded shape.

Secure the tuft firmly to one end of the crocheted tail.

Sew the opposite end of the tail to the back of the body.

For the playful raised-tail appearance shown in the chart, curve the tail upward before securing its position.

Step 12: Add the Paw Details

Thread a yarn needle with black yarn.

On each white paw, embroider three short vertical black lines to represent the lion's toes.

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Try to make all three lines approximately the same length.

Repeat this detail on the front and back paws.

Do not pull the embroidery too tightly, or the white paw may become distorted.

Step 13: Embroider the Mouth and Whiskers

Use black yarn for the mouth details.

Starting directly beneath the black nose, make a short vertical stitch downward.

From the bottom of this stitch, embroider two curved sections to create the smiling mouth.

For the whiskers, the chart shows approximately three whiskers on each side of the muzzle.

You can use white yarn for the prominent whisker strands and small black stitches near the muzzle to add definition, following the appearance of the illustrated lion.

Keep the whiskers symmetrical and avoid pulling them too tightly.

Step 14: Attach the Head to the Body

Position the completed head on top of the body.

Before sewing, check the lion from the front and sides.

The muzzle should point straight forward, the ears should be level, and the mane should surround the head evenly.

Using the long yarn tail from the body or a matching piece of yellow yarn, sew around the neck several times.

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Because the lion's head is relatively large compared with the body, make the connection especially secure.

After the first sewing round, check the head position again.

If necessary, add another round of stitches around the neck until the head no longer wobbles.

Hide the remaining yarn tail inside the body.

Step 15: Final Assembly

Now complete the lion in the following order.

First, make sure the white muzzle is firmly sewn to the head.

Next, secure the black nose in the center of the muzzle.

Complete the mouth and whisker embroidery.

Check that both ears are securely attached on opposite sides of the head.

Arrange the rainbow mane so that the colored loops frame the face instead of covering it.

Make sure the head is securely attached to the body.

Check the front and back legs and reinforce any loose seams.

Attach the tail securely to the back and position the tuft at the outer end.

Finally, inspect the lion from every direction and hide all visible yarn tails inside the crocheted pieces.

Step 16: Shape and Finish Your Rainbow Lion 🦁

Gently massage the stuffing inside the head and body to remove any uneven areas.

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Shape the head into a rounded form.

Straighten the legs so the lion can sit or stand securely.

Separate and fluff the rainbow mane loops with your fingers.

Move individual colored loops until the rainbow distribution looks balanced around the face.

Adjust the ears so that they angle slightly outward.

Gently curve the tail upward and arrange the tuft.

Your completed lion should measure approximately 16 cm / 6.25 inches tall when sitting when made with worsted-weight yarn and the recommended 3.5 mm hook.

Helpful Amigurumi Tips

Use a stitch marker in the first stitch of every round. Because the pattern is worked continuously, it can otherwise be difficult to recognize where one round ends and the next begins.

Count the stitches after every increase and decrease round. Correct stitch counts are especially important for the head and body because even one missed increase can change the shape.

Stuff firmly but gradually. Small pieces of fiberfill produce a smoother finish than pushing one large amount of stuffing into the piece.

When changing from yellow to white on the legs, complete the final yarn-over of the last yellow stitch with the white yarn. This creates a cleaner color transition.

If your stitches are loose and the stuffing is visible, use a slightly smaller crochet hook. If your stitches are extremely difficult to work, move up one hook size.

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Care Instructions

For a handmade amigurumi lion, gentle cleaning is recommended.

Spot clean with mild soap and water whenever possible. Avoid harsh scrubbing, because it can distort the stitches and loosen the colorful mane.

Do not machine wash unless you know that every yarn and filling material used is machine washable.

Allow the lion to air dry completely.

While it is drying, reshape the head, body, paws, ears, mane, and tail with your hands.

If the project is intended for a young child, remember that safety eyes are not recommended for very young children because they can become a choking hazard. For a baby-safe version, embroider the eyes securely with black yarn instead.

Your Crochet Rainbow Lion Is Finished! 🌈🦁

You now have a complete Crochet Rainbow Lion with a golden body, rounded head, white muzzle and paws, tiny ears, embroidered facial details, colorful mane, and curled tail.

The most important part of achieving the same look as the chart is keeping the basic amigurumi pieces simple and letting the rainbow looped mane become the focal point. Take a little extra time when positioning the eyes, muzzle, ears, and mane because these details determine the lion's expression.

Once everything is sewn securely, fluff the mane, straighten the paws, shape the tail, and give your lion one final adjustment.

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Your colorful Rainbow Lion amigurumi is ready! 🧶🌈🦁

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