

Crochet Horse Tutorial

This elegant crochet wall hanging features a realistic horse portrait mounted on an open filet-style background with a decorative scalloped border. The design combines tapestry crochet, appliqué techniques, surface crochet details, and dimensional mane work to create a stunning equestrian-themed decorative piece.

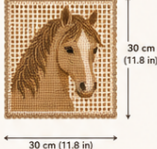


CROCHET HORSE FILET PANEL

Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial

FINISHED SIZE

Approx. 30 cm x 30 cm
(11.8 in x 11.8 in)
square



MATERIALS

- Worsted weight (4) yarn
 - Main Color (Horse): ~120 g (4.2 oz)
 - Mane/Dark Brown: ~60 g (2.1 oz)
 - Marking/White: ~20 g (0.7 oz)
 - Border/Beige: ~40 g (1.4 oz)
- Crochet hook: 4.0 mm (G/6) or size needed for gauge
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Stitch markers (optional)
- Blocking mat (optional)

YARN COLORS (Example)

- Main Color (Tan/Body)
- Mane (Dark Brown)
- Marking (White)
- Border (Beige)
- Eyes/Nose (Dark Brown)

MAIN STITCHES USED

- Double Crochet (dc)
- Chain (ch)
- Slip Stitch (sl st)
- Filet Crochet (dc + ch-sp)

TOOLS

- 4.0 mm (G/6) crochet hook
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- Stitch markers
- Blocking mat (optional)

WHAT IS FILET CROCHET?

Filet crochet creates a grid of "filled" (dc) and "empty" (ch-spaces) squares to form pictures.

- Filled Square: 1 dc
- Empty Square: ch 2 (or ch 1 for tighter fabric)

GAUGE (TENSION)

19 dc x 9 rows = 10 cm x 10 cm
(4 in x 4 in) in filet pattern

Gauge is not critical, but consistent tension will ensure proper size and shape.

ABBREVIATIONS (US TERMS)

ch = chain
sl st = slip stitch
dc = double crochet
tr = treble crochet
ch-sp = chain space
sk = skip
rep = repeat
FO = fasten off

HOW TO READ THE CHART

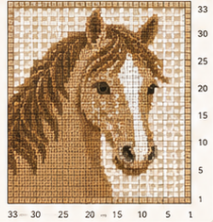
- Each square = 1 dc or 1 ch-sp
- Odd rows: Read right to left
- Even rows: Read left to right
- Numbers on the side = row numbers
- Numbers on the bottom = stitch count

Odd rows →
(read right to left) □ □ □ □ □ →

Even rows ←
(read left to right) ← □ □ □ □ □

COLOR & SYMBOL CHART

- Main Color (Tan/Body)
- Mane (Dark Brown)
- Marking (White)
- Eyes/Nose (Dark Brown)
- Empty Square (ch-sp)



STEP-BY-STEP OVERVIEW

- Make the foundation chain
- Work the base row
- Follow the chart row by row using filet crochet
- Change colors as indicated in the chart
- Finish the panel
- Add the border
- Weave in ends and block

This pattern is worked from the bottom up. Read the chart from right to left on odd rows and left to right on even rows.

STEP-BY-STEP TUTORIAL

1. FOUNDATION CHAIN

Ch 100 (or any multiple of 3 + 1 for your size).

For this pattern:
33 squares wide
= 33 x 3 + 1 = 100 ch



2. BASE ROW (ROW 1)

Dc in 4th ch from hook (counts as first dc and ch-1 space).

* Ch 2, sk 2 ch, dc in next ch *

Rep * to * across.

Turn.



3. WORK THE PATTERN

Follow the chart row by row.

- Filled square = dc
- Empty square = ch 2

Change colors where indicated on the chart.

Turn after each row.



4. FINISH THE PANEL

Continue until Row 33 is complete.

Fasten off and weave in ends.



5. ADD THE BORDER

Round 1:

Join border color with sl st in any corner ch-sp.

Ch 1, work 3 dc in same space (corner), dc evenly along sides, 3 dc in each corner ch-sp.

Join with sl st to first dc.



Round 2 (Scalloped Edge):

* Sl st in next dc, (sc, hdc, dc, hdc, sc, sl st) in next dc (or ch-sp for corner) *

Rep * around.

Fasten off.



6. BLOCK

Lightly wet block your panel to even out stitches and shape.

Let dry completely.



7. DONE!

Your beautiful horses panel is ready to use in blankets, pillows, wall art and more!



FILET CROCHET SYMBOLS

- = dc (filled square)
- = ch 2 (empty square)
- | = dc (on base row)

COMMON STITCHES (US TERMS)

Chain (ch)



Slip Stitch (sl st)



Double Crochet (dc)



Treble Crochet (tr)



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Keep tension even.
- Count your squares often to stay on track.
- Use stitch markers for counting sections.
- Block for a professional finish.

HANDMADE WITH LOVE

HAPPY CROCHETING!

Finished Size: Approximately 16 x 16 inches (40 x 40 cm)

Skill Level: Advanced Intermediate to Advanced

Materials Needed

Yarn Colors

- Cream (background mesh)
- Light Beige (horse face)
- Medium Tan (horse neck)
- Dark Brown (mane and shading)
- White (facial blaze)
- Gray (nostrils)
- Black (eyes and embroidery)

Crochet Hooks

- 3.0 mm hook
- 3.5 mm hook

Additional Supplies

- Yarn needle
- Stitch markers
- Blocking board
- Measuring tape
- Safety eyes (optional)
- Fabric stiffener (optional)
- Scissors

Finished Measurements

Background Panel

- Width: 16 inches (40 cm)
- Height: 16 inches (40 cm)

Horse Portrait

- Height: 12 inches (30 cm)
- Width: 9 inches (23 cm)

Step 1: Create the Filet Crochet Background

The background is worked first and serves as the foundation for the horse portrait.

Using cream yarn and a 3.5 mm hook:

Chain 61.

Row 1

Dc in 6th chain from hook.

Ch 2, skip 2 chains, dc in next chain.

Repeat across.

You will create open mesh squares.

Turn.

Row 2

Ch 5.

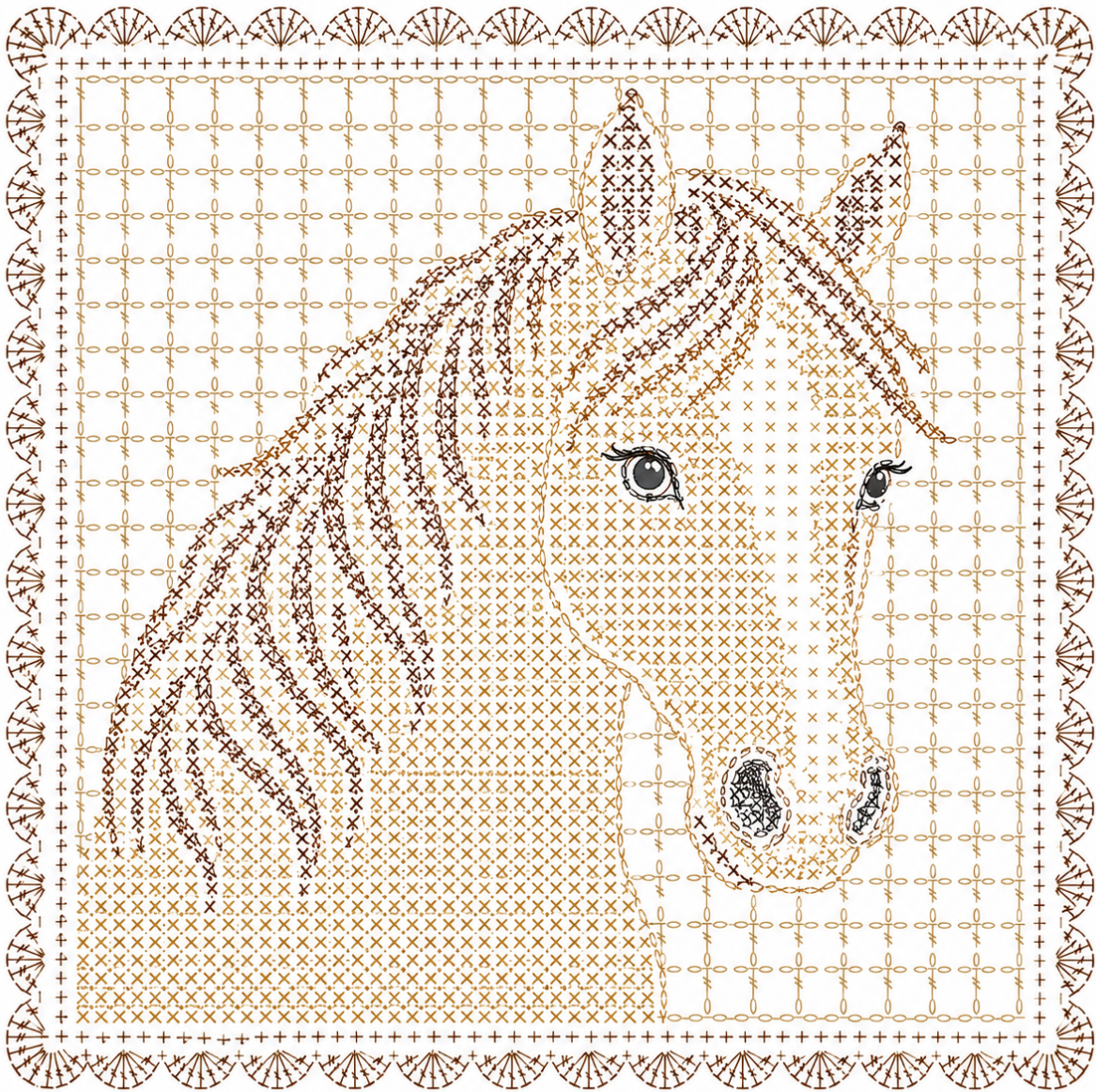
Skip first space.

Dc into next dc.

Ch 2, dc into next dc.

Repeat across.

Turn.



Rows 3–40

Repeat Row 2.

Continue until a square measuring approximately:

- 14 inches wide
- 14 inches high

Block lightly before adding the border.

The mesh openings should be uniform and square.

Step 2: Crochet the Inner Frame

Attach beige yarn.

Round 1

Work sc evenly around entire panel.

Corners:

- 3 sc in each corner

Join with sl st.

Round 2

Work hdc around.

Corners:

- hdc
- ch 2
- hdc

in each corner.

This frame stabilizes the mesh background.

Step 3: Create the Scalloped Border

Continue with beige yarn.

Border Round

Skip 2 stitches, work 7 dc in next stitch, skip 2 stitches, sc in next stitch.

Repeat around.

At corners:

Work 9 dc shells.

The border should measure approximately 1 inch wide.

Lightly block the scallops so they open evenly.

Step 4: Crochet the Horse Neck

Using medium tan yarn.

Foundation

Chain 36.

Row 1

Sc in second chain from hook.

Sc across.

Turn.

Rows 2–40

Ch 1.

Sc across.

Turn.

Increase gradually at the top edge every fourth row to create the natural widening of the neck.

Finished measurements:

- Height: 8 inches
- Width: 5 inches

Fasten off.

Step 5: Crochet the Horse Head

Using light beige yarn.

Foundation

Chain 20.

Row 1

Sc across.

Turn.

Rows 2–25

Work sc rows while shaping.

Increase gradually along one side to form the forehead.

Decrease slightly toward the muzzle.

The head should measure:

- Length: 7 inches
- Width: 4 inches

Leave a long tail for sewing.

Step 6: Create the White Facial Blaze

Using white yarn.

Foundation

Chain 6.

Work rows of sc while increasing slightly toward the forehead.

Shape into a long diamond.

Measurements:

- Length: 5 inches
- Width: 1½ inches

Position down the center of the horse's face.

Sew securely.

Step 7: Crochet the Ears

Using beige yarn.

Make 2.

Ear Foundation

Chain 8.

Row 1

Sc across.

Row 2

Decrease at both ends.

Repeat until a pointed triangle forms.

Finished size:

- Height: 2 inches
- Width: 1 inch

Create a second ear.

Add a few rows of brown yarn inside the ears for depth.

Sew onto the head.

Step 8: Create the Muzzle

Using beige yarn.

Round 1

Magic Ring.

6 sc.

Round 2

Increase around.

12 sc.

Round 3

Sc, increase.

Repeat around.

Round 4

Sc around.

Make two oval pieces.

Join them side by side to create the nose area.

Nostrils

Using gray yarn.

Embroider oval nostrils approximately:

- ½ inch tall
- ¼ inch wide

Add slight black shading around the nostrils.

Step 9: Create the Eyes

The eyes are the focal point of the portrait.

Option 1

Use 12 mm black safety eyes.

Option 2

Crochet eyes.

Using black yarn:

Magic Ring.

6 sc.

Fasten off.

Add tiny white highlights with embroidery thread.

Place eyes approximately:

- 2 inches apart
- Slightly below the ears

Embroider eyelashes using black thread.

Step 10: Create the Mane

The dimensional mane is what gives this portrait its realistic appearance.

Using dark brown yarn.

Method

Cut strands approximately:

10–12 inches long.

Attach strands along the neck and forehead using a latch-hook style method.

Create several rows.

Layering

Work from bottom to top.

Allow each row to overlap the previous row.

Attach approximately:

- 80–120 strands

for a full mane.

Step 11: Shape the Mane

Separate the strands into sections.

Twist some strands.

Leave others loose.

Create flowing curves along the neck.

Secure selected sections with small invisible stitches.

Allow several strands to drape naturally over the forehead.

This creates the realistic appearance shown in the image.

Step 12: Add Surface Crochet Details

Using dark brown yarn.

Work surface slip stitches around:

- Jawline
- Ear edges
- Neck contours
- Facial shading areas

This adds depth and dimension.

Use lighter tan yarn for subtle highlights.

Step 13: Assemble the Portrait

Position the neck first.

Center it slightly left of the background panel.

Attach securely.

Position the head overlapping the neck.

Attach ears.

Add muzzle.

Attach eyes.

Arrange and sew the mane.

Make sure the portrait appears slightly raised above the mesh background.

Step 14: Final Shaping

Use steam blocking carefully.

Shape:

- Ears

- Muzzle
- Neck curves
- Mane flow

Avoid flattening the dimensional mane.

Allow everything to cool and dry completely.

Step 15: Finishing Touches

Weave in all ends.

Inspect all sewn sections.

Add extra shading with embroidery if desired.

Attach a hanging loop to the back.

Your finished **Horse Portrait Wall Hanging** should measure approximately **16 x 16 inches**, featuring a realistic horse head, flowing dimensional mane, elegant filet crochet background, and decorative scalloped border that beautifully highlights the equestrian theme.