

ASHLEY PARKER

# Crochet FURRY FRIENDS

12 faux fur amigurumi animals to make



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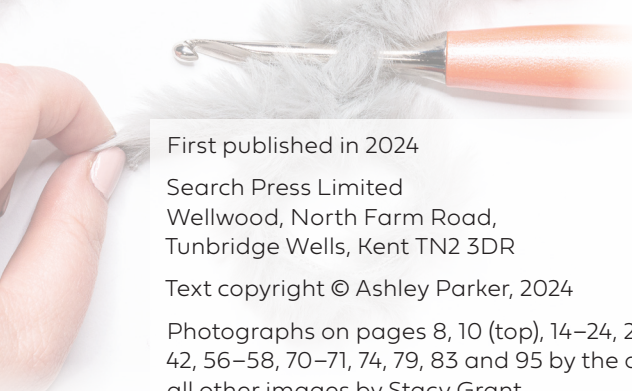


Ashley Parker is a crochet designer and blogger living near Toronto, Ontario in Canada with her husband and two children. Ashley has always been crafty but found a passion for crochet as an adult, after the birth of her children. Soon after learning to crochet, she was hooked, and she hasn't stopped since. Her love of crochet led her to leave the corporate world to pursue working as a craft designer and blogger full-time. In addition to independently publishing her designs, Ashley has written many patterns and tutorials for magazines, yarn companies, tool and craft companies and more. This is her first book with Search Press. Find more about Ashley and her designs at [www.theloopylamb.com](http://www.theloopylamb.com) and @theloopylamb on Instagram.



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You are invited to see more of the author's work and  
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#### Publishers' note

All the step-by-step photographs in this book feature the  
author. No models have been used.



#### Safety note

Please be advised that  
safety eyes can be a  
choking hazard for young  
children, so avoid giving  
toys containing safety  
eyes to young children  
while unsupervised.



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## 12 faux fur amigurumi animals to make

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## Acknowledgements

It has been such a fun experience to design these new furry friends. Thank you to the wonderful folks at Search Press for the opportunity to bring these friends to life in this book.

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To Nana, thank you for introducing me to yarn crafts and giving me a love for crafts that has changed my life. It is something I will forever be grateful for.

### Suppliers

Thank you to these wonderful businesses for supplying the materials used in this book:

#### Yarn

WeCrochet: [www.crochet.com](http://www.crochet.com)

Lion Brand Yarns: [www.lionbrand.com](http://www.lionbrand.com)

Hobbii Yarns: [www.hobbii.com](http://www.hobbii.com)

#### Crochet hooks

Furls: [www.furlscrochet.com](http://www.furlscrochet.com)

#### Safety eyes

Chateau Bornais: [www.chateaubornais.com](http://www.chateaubornais.com)

#### Other supplies used

Stitch markers: Clover locking stitch markers

Toy stuffing: Poly-fil stuffing

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# Introduction

**The allure of faux fur yarns is easy to understand. It's soft and lush and it has the potential to create projects that you would otherwise need to have sewing experience to create. But many crocheters shy away from using this delightful yarn. Why? Because there is a fear of failure and the perception that crocheting with this yarn is difficult or impossible. So I'm here to tell you that crocheting with fur yarns is not only very possible, but it can also be an absolute pleasure to work with, and I'll teach you how.**

When I was given my first ball of fur yarn to try out, I had the same trepidation that many crocheters have – how will I see my stitches? How will I know where to put my hook? This is going to be SO HARD. But I have a personal motto: if it scares the hell out of me, I'm absolutely going to do it (or at the very least, give it a try!).

That first ball of fur yarn was a soft grey colour that just screamed to be made into a koala bear. At the time, fur yarn was rarely used and when it was, it was used sparingly to add trims and small details to projects. No one was using it for amigurumi. Undeterred by any perceived challenge in my head, I set forth to create what would eventually become my Kaya Koala Bear crochet pattern (the pattern is available on my blog).

During that initial design process, I learned a lot about working with faux fur yarns and fell in love with this medium. I started to create other crochet toys with fur yarn, learning more each time. I encountered many crocheters along the way that wanted to make my fur yarn amigurumi projects, but who were too scared or nervous to attempt them. I wanted to pass on the tips and tricks that I had learned through trial and error, so that they could hit the ground running when they started their first fur yarn projects. I knew that these tips would help people avoid potential frustrations with their first projects (since they would already know how to

overcome any speed bumps) and would help make these projects more approachable.

Through my blog and video tutorials, I have helped countless people learn how to work with something they had previously deemed impossible. Now, you hold in your hands my ultimate guide to fur yarn amigurumi, so that I can do the same for you. With this book, my goal is to take the fear out of working with faux fur yarns by providing you with advice, tools and strategies to make working with fur yarns simpler and more enjoyable. Once you're armed with those, I'm going to help you create show-stopping creations that will shock your friends and family when you tell them that it's something you crocheted.

As with learning any new skill, read the techniques section of this book first. I walk you through how to identify fur yarns that will be easiest to use, I share all the knowledge you'll need to start crocheting with fur yarn and then we cover finishing techniques that will give your projects a professional finish. Have patience and trust the process through your first few projects. Your project may look like just a furry ball when you're first starting but it will come together once you assemble all the pieces. If you already know basic crochet stitches like single crochet, then you have the skills to create eye-catching toys made with fur yarn. You just need to make a few adjustments to some techniques to make them work

better with the fur yarn. If you get frustrated, take a break and come back to it. You can totally do this! The hardest thing about working with fur yarn is getting past those doubts in your head and having patience with yourself.

The patterns in this book have been designed with simple stitches and shaping to help build your confidence and experience working with fur yarns. I recommend starting with the projects made using only fur yarn first, like Sherman Sheep (page 34), Barrington Bear (page 38) or Beatrice Bunny (page 66), before diving into the trickier projects

or ones that use both smooth and fur yarns. Doing this will help you get the results that you want from those bigger/trickier projects since you'll have experience learned in those first projects to create a masterpiece.

I hope that this book helps you discover a love for fur yarns and that you enjoy working through the projects. I would love to see your finished projects made with these patterns so if you share them on social media, please tag me @theloopylamb and/or use #theloopylamb so that I can see your projects and share them as well.





# Tools and materials

## Crochet hooks

The crochet hook sizes I used are listed before each pattern. However, every person's gauge (tension) is different, and I recommend you use whichever crochet hook helps you meet the gauge given for the pattern and/or helps you to feel your stitches best (see 'Gauge' on page 24 and 'Tips and tricks for working with fur yarns' on page 30 for more information).

## Stitch markers

Stitch markers are used to mark the first stitch of your round when working in a continuous spiral, and moved up in each consecutive round. There are patterns that require you to use more than one stitch marker and you may find marking the first and last stitch of your rows helpful when working in turned rows. Locking stitch markers are my favourites as they lock in place and won't fall out of your project.

## Toy stuffing

Toy stuffing gives your toys their three-dimensional shape. I use Poly-fil, which is a recycled polyester stuffing. Check out 'Stuffing your toy' on page 26 for tips on using this to help your toy look its best.

## Yarn needle/tapestry needle

A yarn needle (not shown opposite) is used to weave in loose ends, close holes, sew pieces together and embroider accents onto the toys. I recommend using a yarn needle with a large eye so that it's easier to thread onto the fur yarn. Bent-tip yarn needles are my favourite – the little bend in the tip of the needle helps make sewing pieces together easier.

## Safety eyes and safety noses

I use safety eyes and safety noses in a variety of sizes and colours in the projects in this book. Make sure the ones you use have backings that are large enough to prevent the eyes/noses from falling out or being pulled out of your toy.

## Ball point pins and corsage pins

Using long ball point sewing pins or 2in (5cm) corsage pins can help you to get the ideal placement of the pieces on your toys and help hold them in position while you sew them on. I prefer corsage pins because their larger head is easier to find among the fur. Corsage and sewing pins can be purchased at your local craft or fabric store. Whichever type you decide to use, I recommend using pins that are at least 2in (5cm) long to get the most secure hold.

## Wire brush

A wire brush is essential for finishing your toys and helping them look their best. You don't need anything fancy or pricey – I use a wire dog grooming brush!

## Scissors

Use a sharp pair of scissors to snip yarn and trim fur (not shown opposite).

## Measuring tape

Use a measuring tape to measure and check your gauge (not shown opposite).

## Fur yarn

The patterns in this book use a size 6, super bulky (super chunky) weight yarn. See my 'Guide to buying fur yarn' on page 10 for some ideas.

## Worsted/10-ply (aran) weight acrylic yarn

Some patterns in this book use worsted/10-ply (aran) weight acrylic yarn to create accent pieces for the toy, for example, Abbey Axolotl (page 50) and Ollie Owl (page 76). Since not all worsted/10-ply (aran) weight yarns are created equal, make sure that you take the time to check your gauge before using it in those patterns.

## Scrap yarn

Having scrap pieces of yarn in various lengths will help you to keep track of your rounds while you're crocheting, and is something I highly recommend you have on hand. It's called a running stitch marker – see 'Tips and tricks for working with fur yarns' on page 30 for detailed information on how you can use this in your work.

