

Crochet Cute Lion Doily Tutorial

This adorable crochet lion doily combines amigurumi-style features with a decorative lace doily. The design features a round lion face, textured mane petals, cute paws, curled tail, leafy branches, and a scalloped border. The finished piece makes a wonderful nursery decoration, table centerpiece, wall hanging, or baby room accent.



Finished Size: Approximately 14–16 inches (35–40 cm) in diameter

Skill Level: Intermediate

Materials Needed

Yarn Colors

- Golden Yellow (lion body and border)
- Light Cream (muzzle, paws, inner border)
- Brown (mane and nose)
- Green (leaves)
- Black (eyes, whiskers, facial details)

Hook

- 3.5 mm crochet hook

Additional Supplies

- Yarn needle
- Stitch markers
- Scissors
- Fiberfill (small amount for muzzle)
- Safety eyes (optional)
- Blocking board

Crochet Abbreviations

- MR = Magic Ring
- ch = chain
- sl st = slip stitch
- sc = single crochet
- hdc = half double crochet
- dc = double crochet
- tr = treble crochet
- inc = increase
- st = stitch
- sp = space

Step 1: Crochet the Lion Face Center

Using golden yellow yarn.

Round 1

Create a magic ring.

Work 12 dc into the ring.

Join with sl st.

Round 2

Ch 2.

Work 2 dc in each stitch around.

24 dc.

Join.

Round 3

1 dc, increase.

Repeat around.

36 dc.

Round 4

2 dc, increase.

Repeat around.

48 dc.

Round 5

3 dc, increase.

Repeat around.

60 dc.

Rounds 6–8

Dc evenly around.

The face circle should measure approximately:

- 5 inches (13 cm)

Fasten off.

Step 2: Crochet the Muzzle

Using cream yarn.

Round 1

MR.

6 sc.

Round 2

Increase around.

12 sc.

Round 3

1 sc, inc.

18 sc.

Round 4

Sc around.

Make 2 identical ovals.

Sew side-by-side.

Lightly stuff.

Attach to lower center of face.

Finished muzzle width:

- 2½ inches (6 cm)

Step 3: Create the Nose

Using brown yarn.

Round 1

MR.

6 sc.

Round 2

Increase around.

12 sc.

Shape slightly into a triangle while sewing.

Attach above the muzzle center.

Using black yarn:

Embroider the mouth beneath the nose.

Step 4: Add the Eyes and Whiskers

Eyes

Option 1:

Attach 12 mm safety eyes.

Option 2:

Embroider large eyes using black and white yarn.

Place eyes approximately:

- 1½ inches apart

Eyebrows

Using black yarn:

Create two curved eyebrows.

Whiskers

Add three whiskers on each side using black embroidery thread.

Step 5: Crochet the Lion Ears

Using golden yellow yarn.

Make 2.

Round 1

MR.

6 sc.

Round 2

Increase around.

12 sc.

Round 3

Sc around.

Fold in half.

Sew the straight edge closed.

Attach to top of head.

Position slightly behind the mane.

Step 6: Create the Mane Petals

The mane consists of multiple textured petals surrounding the face.

Using brown yarn.

Petal Pattern

Ch 10.

Row 1:

Sc in second chain.

Hdc in next 2 stitches.

Dc in next 4 stitches.

Hdc in next stitch.

Sc in final stitch.

Turn.

Row 2

Work sc around entire petal edge.

Fasten off.

Finished petal:

- Approximately 2 inches long

Make 32–36 petals.

Arrange evenly around the lion face.

Overlap slightly.

Sew securely.

This creates the rich textured mane shown in the diagram.

Step 7: Create the Inner Lace Ring

Attach cream yarn behind the mane.

Round 1

Ch 5, sc between petals.

Repeat around.

Round 2

Work:

Sc

3 dc

Sc

inside each chain space.

This creates the decorative lace layer surrounding the mane.

Step 8: Create the Main Doily Body

Continue with cream yarn.

Round 3

Ch 6.

Sc into next space.

Repeat around.

Round 4

Work:

Sc

Ch 3

Sc

inside each arch.

Round 5

Repeat around.

The doily should begin expanding evenly.

Continue adding rounds until the total diameter reaches approximately:

12 inches (30 cm).

Step 9: Crochet the Lion Body

Using yellow yarn.

Foundation

Ch 22.

Row 1

Dc across.

Rows 2–12

Dc across.

Shape the sides slightly inward toward the neck.

Finished body:

- Height: 4 inches
- Width: 3 inches

Sew beneath the face.

Step 10: Crochet the Paws

Using cream yarn.

Round 1

MR.

8 sc.

Round 2

Increase around.

16 sc.

Round 3

Sc around.

Make 4 paws.

Attach two front paws and two lower paws.

Using brown yarn:

Embroider claw details.

Step 11: Crochet the Tail

Using yellow yarn.

Tail Cord

Ch 25.

Sl st back across chain.

Tail Tip

MR.

8 sc.

Round 2:

Increase around.

16 sc.

Attach to tail end.

Sew tail to body.

Shape into a gentle curl.

Step 12: Create the Leaf Branches

Using green yarn.

Make 2 branches.

Stem

Ch 35.

Sl st back.

Leaves

For each leaf:

Ch 8.

Work:

Sc

Hdc

Dc

Dc

Hdc

Sc

along chain.

Attach leaves directly onto stem.

Create:

- 6–8 leaves per branch

Attach branches to both sides of the lion.

Step 13: Crochet the Heart Motif

Using cream yarn.

Round 1

MR.

Work:

3 dc

3 tr

Ch 1

3 tr

3 dc

Join.

Shape into a heart.

Attach at bottom center.

Step 14: Create the Outer Scalloped Border

Using golden yellow yarn.

Border Round

Skip 2 stitches, 9 dc in next stitch, skip 2 stitches, sc in next stitch.

Repeat around entire edge.

Each shell creates a rounded scallop.

Continue until the border is complete.

Step 15: Blocking and Finishing

Weave in all yarn ends.

Pin the doily onto a blocking board.

Shape:

- Mane petals
- Leaves
- Scalloped border
- Tail curl

Lightly steam block.

Allow to dry completely.

Finished Measurements

Your completed lion doily should measure approximately:

- Diameter: 14–16 inches (35–40 cm)

The finished project features a smiling lion face, dimensional mane, decorative lace background, leafy accents, paws, curled tail, and a beautiful scalloped border, making it a delightful crochet piece for children's rooms, safari-themed décor, or handmade gifts.