

Crochet your own EFMC Mascot, Snakey!



Abstract: It is important for scientist to develop their soft skills. Here we present a case study for the training of a very soft skill, crocheting. The instructions presented in this paper will help even novice crocheters to produce their hexagonal EFMC mascot snake, Snakey.

Materials:

- 4 mm crochet hook
- navy blue yarn (e.g. Drops Muskat)
- a pair of safety eyes 8 mm
- something to fill your snake with (cotton filling or crumbled newspaper also works)
- 50 cm of red yarn for the tongue
- Note: if you have different sized hook and a suitable yarn for that, you can use that to make your own custom Snakey. Smaller hook&yarn lead to a smaller Snakey, and larger correspondingly to a larger one.



Methods:

The crochet techniques you will need (we will use the UK terminology):

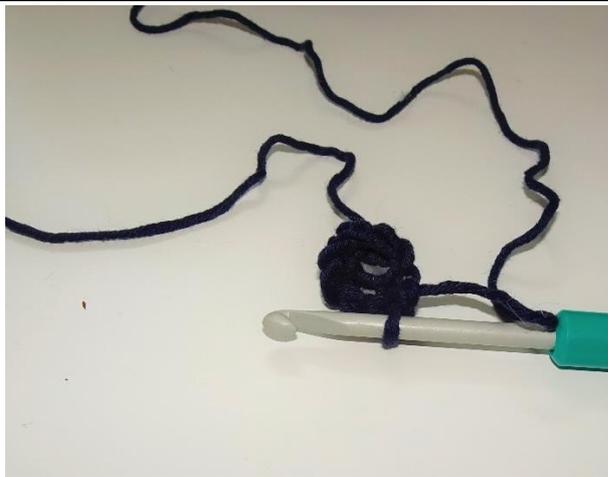
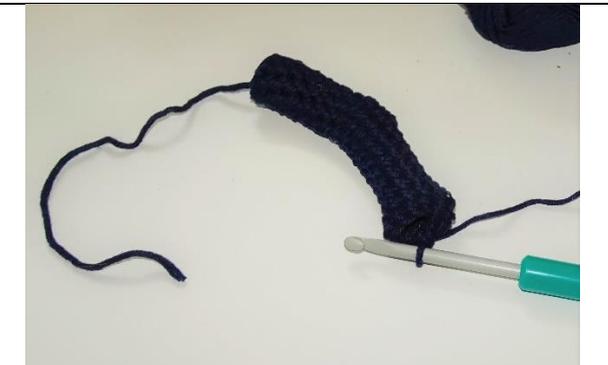
- Chain crochet (ch) <https://www.garnstudio.com/video.php?id=22&lang=en> (start)
- Double crochet (dc) <https://www.garnstudio.com/video.php?id=24&lang=en> (most of the work)
- Half treble crochet (htr) <https://www.garnstudio.com/video.php?id=25&lang=en> (the turns)
- Increase (inc) <https://www.garnstudio.com/video.php?id=29&lang=en> (the turns and the head)
- Decrease (dec) <https://www.garnstudio.com/video.php?id=74&lang=en> (the head)
- Slip stitch (sl st) <https://www.garnstudio.com/video.php?id=23&lang=en> (the tongue)

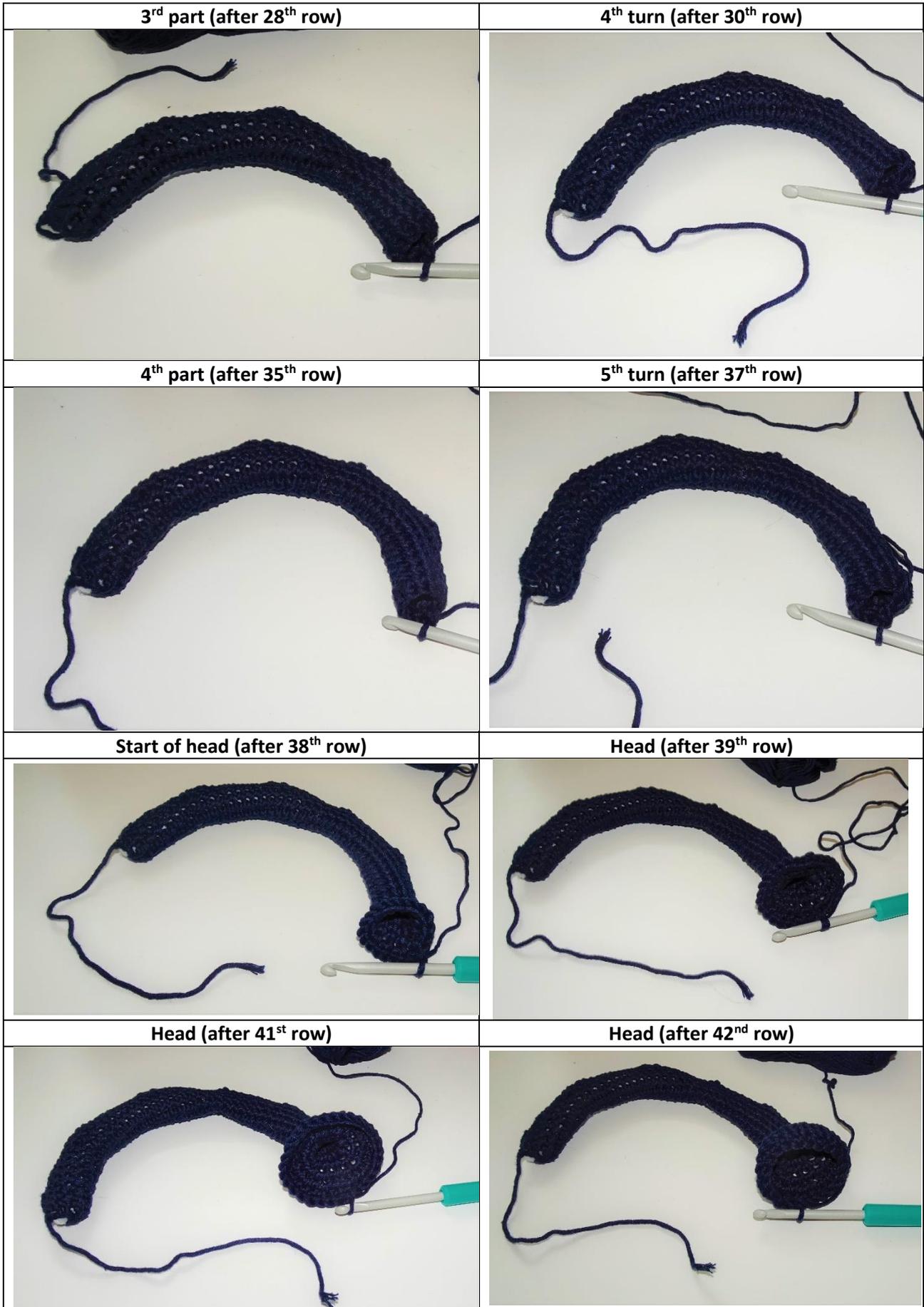
Instructions:

Table 1. Text instructions for making your Snakey.

Row	Instruction	Total number of loops	Part of Snakey
1	8 ch	8	Tail
2	Push your hook through the 1 st loop (furthest away from the hook) and crochet 1 dc . Then continue along the chain with 7 dc . It is easier to only put your hook through the outer loop at this stage. You have made a circle, which may have a hole in the middle. Do not worry about the hole, we will fix it later. Now continue working in a circle.	8	Tail
3-7 (5 rows)	8 dc	8	Tail
8	2 htr, 6 dc	8	Turn after tail
9	2 htr, 6 dc	8	Turn after tail
10-14 (5 rows)	8 dc	8	1 st part after tail
15	2 htr in the first loop, 7 dc	9	2 nd turn after tail
16	2 htr, 7 dc	9	2 nd turn after tail
17-21 (5 rows)	9 dc	9	2 nd part after tail
22	2 htr, 7 dc	9	3 rd turn after tail
23	2 htr, 7 dc	9	3 rd turn after tail
24-28 (5 rows)	9 dc	9	3 rd part after tail
	You might want to fill the tail at this point. Do not fill Snakey too much, or he won't be able to make the turns.		
29	2 htr in the first loop, 8 dc	10	4 th turn after tail
30	2 htr, 8 dc	10	4 th turn after tail
31-35 (5 rows)	10 dc	10	4 th part after tail
36	2 htr, 8 dc	10	5 th turn after tail
37	2 htr, 8 dc	10	5 th turn after tail
38	10 inc	20	Head
39	1 inc, 1 dc [repeat 10 times]	30	Head
40-41 (2 rows)	30 dc	30	Head
42	1 dec, 1 dc [repeat 10 times]	20	Head
43	20 dc	20	Head
44	1 dec, 2 dc [repeat 5 times]	15	Head
45	15 dc	15	Head
	Attach now the safety eyes between rows 43 and 44. Fill Snakey mostly.		
46	1 dec, 1 dc [repeat 5 times]	10	Head
47	5 dec	5	Head
	Fill Snakey completely.		
48	2 dec, 1 dc	3	Head
	Cut now the yarn and pull through the last loop on the hook. Finish by pulling yarn ends inside the body with the hook. You can use the yarn end to sew shut the hole in the tail.		

Table 2. Figures for different parts of Snakey when it is being crocheted.

<p style="text-align: center;">Starting chain (after 1st row)</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Starting circle (after 2nd row)</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">Tail (after 7th row)</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">1st turn after tail (after 9th row)</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">1st part after tail (after 14th row)</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">2nd turn after tail (after 16th row)</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;">2nd part after tail (after 21st row)</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">3rd turn after tail (after 23rd row)</p> 



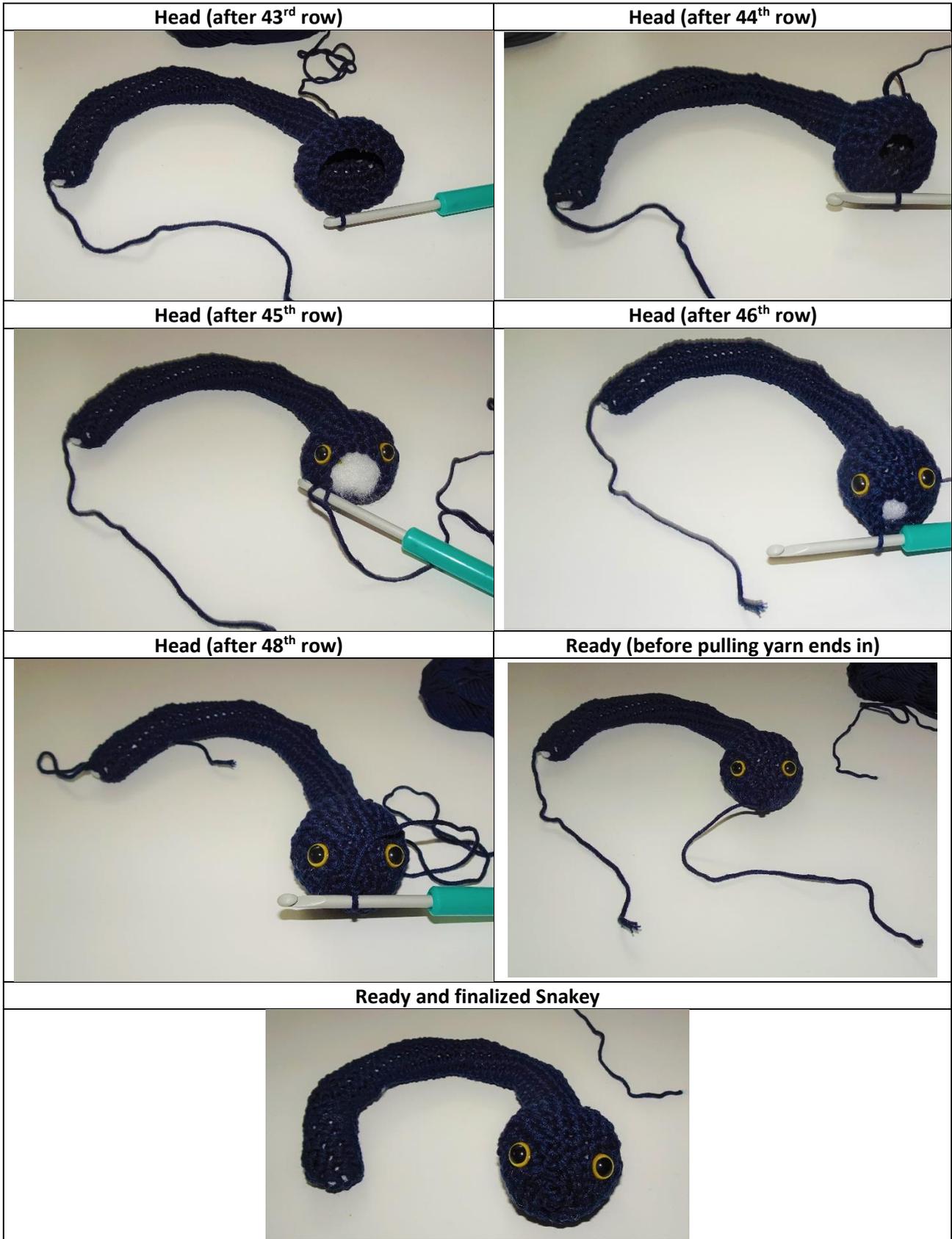


Table 3. Text and figure instructions for the tongue. Note that due to its shape it is made in stages rather than in rows.

Stage 1	Stage 2
9 ch	turn the work, sl st to the 2 nd loop from the hook, 2 sl st
	
Stage 3	Stage 4
4 ch, sl st to the 2nd chain from the hook, 2 sl st	5 sl st and finish by pulling the yarn through the last loop. Attach to Snakey by pulling yarn ends through loops and making a knot. Pull the yarn ends inside Snakey for finalizing.
	

Results:



Figure 1. Finalized Snakey with its tongue attached.

Conclusions:

With detailed instructions and correct materials scientists can learn very soft skills such as crocheting, and crochet their own EFMC mascot, Snakey. This way they can provide themselves with countless hours of entertainment and relax after spending a day in the lab (or at home in quarantine because of COVID-2019).

Questions?

Send me an email at piia@bartos.fi, if you need any assistance in crocheting your Snakey!