Being creative
even when busy
Trying new
things
Learning to slow
down
Bucura
LADYBUG BEAR

# ABOUT ERIKA DU

I learned to crochet when I was eight,

sitting beside my grandmother as she

patiently showed me each stitch.

Crochet has always been a quiet part of my life — a way to create, to focus, and to bring a little warmth into the world.

Over the years, I made clothes, hats, bags, and mittens for myself, experimenting and learning by doing. Life got busy — university, a corporate job, family — and for a while, my crochet sat quietly in the background.

In 2016, I returned to it with a purpose: to give back. I started making toys to donate to children in need. People began asking for them, and slowly, a small handmade business was born. In 2018, I began creating my own patterns, with a special love for dress-up dolls.

After pausing in 2022, I'm back — bringing my experience, patience, and heart into every project. Now I work with plush yarn alongside my classic designs, creating toys and patterns meant to bring comfort, joy, and a little magic to anyone who makes or receives them.

Crochet is my way of slowing down, of sharing care, and of connecting across generations. Thank you for being part of this journey with me.

I can't wait to see what you create with my patterns 🤍

Happy crocheting!

— Erika

***My superpower? I can turn yarn into anything!***

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# ABOUT THE PATTERN

Bucura the Ladybug Bear is a sweet and playful amigurumi dressed in her adorable ladybug outfit. With her ruffled dress, cute antennae headband, and matching boots, Bucura is full of charm and perfect for spring collections, handmade gifts, or anyone who loves whimsical crochet creations.

Made with soft chenille yarn and a 4 mm crochet hook, Bucura works up into a cuddly plush toy with a velvety texture that's irresistible to hug.

## Pattern Details

- Yarn: Chenille / plush yarn ; cotton yarn for the ones that wish to work her in cotton
- Hook size: 4 mm for chenille, 2.75 mm for cotton
- Worked in continuous rounds
- Separate pieces with clear assembly instructions
- The pattern is written for the chenille version, just change the yarn and adapt the crochet hook (Pattern tested in both)
- Includes dress, antennae headband, and boots.

## Skill Level

Advanced beginner to intermediate

You should know how to:

- Magic ring
- Single crochet
- Increase and decrease
- Basic sewing and assembly

This is a digital PDF crochet pattern, not a finished toy.

Perfect for spring markets, nursery decor, and handmade gifts for ladybug lovers

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# ABBREVIATIONS USED

- st – stitch
- sl st – slip stitch
- ch – chain
- sc – single crochet
- inc – increase
- dec – decrease
- hdc – half double crochet
- hdc inc – half double crochet increase, make two hdc in the same stitch
- dc – double crochet
- dc inc – double crochet increase make two dc in the same stitch
- BLO – we work in back loops only
- FLO – we work in front loops only
- Bobble stitch

# YOU WILL NEED

- ☐ Wolans Bunny Baby red
- ☐ Wolans Bunny Baby cream
- ☐ Wolans Bunny Baby brown
- ☐ Wolans Bunny Baby black
- ☐ Wolans Bunny Baby white
- ☐ Used Retwist Slim cotton for cotton version same colors (worsted yarn)

Alternative Yarn Suggestions: **PAINTBOX YARNS** Chenille, **PREMIER YARNS** Parfait Chunky, **KATIA** Bambi, **UNIVERSAL YARN** Bella Chenille, **CYGNET** Jellybaby Chunky Chenille, **HIMALAYA YARN** Dolphin Baby, **HOBBII** Baby Snuggle. For more substitutes you can check out https://yarnsub.com/. Just make sure you adapt the crochet hook and using a 1-2 size smaller crochet hook than recommended.

- ☐ crochet 4 mm
- ☐ fiberfill
- ☐ safety eyes 12 mm
- ☐ scissors

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- ☐ pins
- ☐ buttons for the dress

# ARMS

(make 2)

For the arms use brown color yarn (041) and a 4 mm crochet hook. Stuff only the end of the arm.

**Round 1.** 6 sc in magic ring (6)(fig1)

**Round 2.** 6 inc (12) (fig 2)

**Rounds 3-4.** sc around (12)(fig 3)

**Round 5**. (sc 2, dec) x3 (9)(fig 4)

**Rounds 6-18.** sc around (9) (13 rounds)

Sc the two sides of the arm together with 4 sc(fig 5-6). Fasten off and hide away the ends.

fig 1

fig 2

fig 3

fig 4

fig 5

fig 6

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# MUZZLE

For the muzzle we use cream color yarn and a 4mm crochet hook.

**Round 1**. ch 5, starting from the second chain from the hook, sc 3,(fig 7) sc 3 in the last chain,(fig 8) continue on the other side of the chain, sc 2, inc (10)

**Round 2**. inc, sc 2, inc 3, sc 2, inc 2 (16). Next round we'll work only half of it.

**Round 3**. sc, inc, sc 3. (fig 9) Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

fig 7

fig 8

fig 9

# LEGS

(make 2)

For the legs use brown (041) and cream(085) color yarn and a mm crochet hook. Stuff only while advancing. We start with cream color yarn.

**Round 1.** ch 7, starting from the second chain from the hook (fig 10) sc 5(fig 11), sc 4 in the last chain(fig 12), continue on the other side of the chain, sc 4, inc (fig 13) (15)

**Round 2.** inc, sc 4, hdc inc 4, sc 4, inc 2 (fig 14) (22)

**Rounds 3-4.** sc around (fig 15) (22)

**Round 5.** sc 4, dec 6, sc 6 (fig 16) (16)

**Round 6.** sc 2, dec 6, sc 2 (10)

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**Rounds 7-8.** sc around (10) (2 rounds). We change to brown color yarn. (fig 17)

**Round 9.** BLO sc around (10)

**Rounds 10-11.** sc around (10) (fig 21)

**Round 12.** (sc 4, inc) x2 (12) (fig 22)

**Rounds 13-15.** sc around (12) (3 rounds) (fig 23)

**Round 16.** (sc 3, inc) x3 (15) (fig 24)

**Round 17.** sc around (15)

For the first leg fasten off and hide away the ends for the second one do not fasten off we will continue with the body. IF we are not at the side of the leg we sc as many sc as needed to be on the inner side of the leg (feet facing away from us). In my case I did 7 sc

We attach white color yarn to the front loops of round 9 (fig 18), and we chain 3, sl st in next st(fig 19). we repeat this around. (fig 20)

fig 10

fig 11

fig 12

fig 13

fig 14

fig 15

fig 16

fig 17

fig 18

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fig 19

fig 20

fig 21

fig 22

fig 23

fig 24

For the body we will use brown (041)color yarn and a 4 mm crochet hook. Stuff while advancing.

**Round 1.** ch 3, sc 15 in 1st leg, inc 3 in the chain, sc 15 in 2nd leg, 3 inc on the other side of the chain (42), we make sure the feet are facing forward (in the same direction).

**Rounds 2-8.** sc around (42)(7 rounds)

**Round 9.** (sc 19, dec) x2 (40)

**Round 10.** (sc 4, dec, sc 4) x4 (36)

**Round 11.** (sc 2, dec, sc 2) x6 (30)

**Rounds 12-13.** sc around (30) (2 rounds)

**Round 14.** (sc 3, dec) x6 (24)

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**Rounds 15-16.** sc around (24) (2 rounds)

**Round 17.** (sc, dec, sc) x6 (18). In next round we attach the arm.

**Round 18.** Sc 3, sc 4 through arm and body, sc 5, sc 4 through arm and body, sc 2 (18). Adjust the stitches if needed, make sure the arms are on the side of the body. Do not fasten off we'll continue with the head.

fig 25

fig 26

fig 27

fig 28

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fig 29

fig 30

fig 31

fig 32

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fig 33

fig 34

fig 35

fig 36

For the head we will use brown (041) color yarn and a 4 mm crochet hook. Stuff while advancing.

**Round 1.** FLO inc 18 (36)(fig 37)

**Round 2.** (sc 5, inc) x6 (42)(fig 38)

**Round 3.** (sc 6, inc) x6 (48) (fig 39-41)

**Rounds 4-7.** sc around (48) (4 rounds) (fig 42)

**Round 8.** (sc 3, dec, sc 3) x6 (42)(fig 43)

**Rounds 9-13.** sc around (42) (5 rounds)(fig 44)

**Round 14.** (sc 5, dec) x6 (36). Insert eyes between rounds 5-6, 10 stitches apart. Put also the muzzle in place and sew it in position. The nose is put in position through the head and muzzle. (fig 45-75)

**Round 15.** (sc 2, dec, sc 2) x6 (30)

**Round 16.** (sc 3, dec) x6 (24)

**Round 17.** (sc 2, dec) x6 (18)

**Round 18.** (sc, dec) x6 (12)

**Round 19.** 6 dec (6). Fasten off and hide away the ends.

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fig 37

fig 38

fig 39

fig 40

fig 41

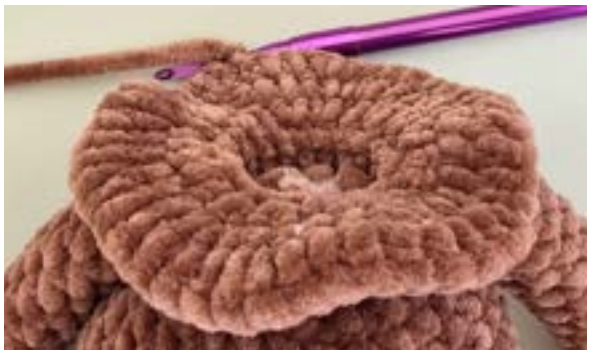

fig 42

fig 43

fig 44

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fig 45

fig 46

fig 47

fig 48

fig 49

fig 50

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fig 51

fig 52

fig 53

fig 54

fig 55

fig 56

fig 57

fig 58

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fig 59

fig 60

fig 61

fig 62

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fig 63

fig 64

fig 65

fig 66

fig 67

fig 68

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fig 69

fig 70

fig 71

fig 72

fig 73

fig 74

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fig 75

fig 76

fig 77

fig 78

## EARS

For the ear we will use brown (041) color yarn and a 4 mm crochet hook.

**Round 1.** sc 6 in magic ring (6)

**Round 2**. inc 6 (12)

**Round 3**. (sc, inc) x6 (18)

**Rounds 4-5**. sc around (18) (2 rounds). Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing.

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# DRESS

For the dress we use red (085) and black color yarn and a 4 mm crochet hook. At the beginning we work in rows. At the end of each row we chain 1 and turn.

**Row 1.** Chain 31(fig 79), start in ch 2 from the hook, sc 30 (30)

**Row 2.** (sc 2, inc, sc 2)x6 (36) +chain 5 (button hole) (fig 80)

**Row 3.** (sc, inc, sc) x12 (48) (fig 81)

**Row 4.** sc 8, chain 4, skip 8 (fig 83), sc 16, chain 4, skip 8, sc 8 (40) (fig 84-85)

**Row 5.** sc 40 (40)(fig 86)

**Row 6.** (sc 2, inc, sc 2) x8 (48)+ chain 5 (second button hole) (fig 87)

**Row 7.** sc 48 (48)

**Row 8.** (sc 3, inc, sc 2) x8 (56) Starting next round we'll work in a circle, at each end of round we sl st on top of the first dc. Starting next round we will work in rounds. At the beginning of each round we chain 2 and at the end of each round we sl st on top of the first stitch of the round.

**Round 1.** FLO 3 dc in each stitch (168). Sl st on top of the first stitch. (fig 89)

**Rounds 2-3.** dc around (168). Fasten off and hide away the ends.

We attach black yarn to the back loops of round 1 of the dress. (fig 90-93)

**Round 1-4.** dc around (56). Fasten off and hide away the ends.

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fig 79

fig 80

fig 81

fig 82

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fig 83

fig 84

fig 85

fig 86

fig 87

fig 88

fig 89

fig 90

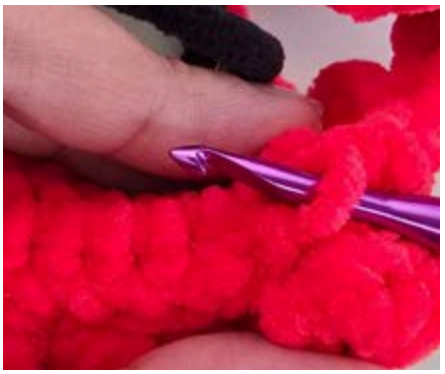

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fig 91

fig 92

fig 93

fig 94

## SHOES

For the shoes we will need black and red yarn and the 4mm hook.

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We will start by making two soles. You will need one in red and one in black for each shoe. Always start with the red sole (or the color of the shoes) below you can find the pattern for the soles. Do not finish off after finishing crocheting one sole.

**Round 1.** chain 7 (fig 95), start in the second chain from the hook, sc 5(fig 96), 4 sc in the last chain (fig 97). Now continue on the other side of the chain, with 4 sc, 2 sc in the last chain.(16)

**Round 2.** hdc inc, 4 hdc, 4 hdc inc, 4 hdc, 2 hdc inc (22) do not cut the yarn.

fig 95 fig 96 fig 97

After making the black sole, you put the sole's back to back, and unite them together crocheting on the side of them with black color. You unite the two soles ( red and black ) and you go with the crochet through both loops. On the red sole you go through only the back loops of the sole (the front loops will be the base for the boot) and on the black one we go through both loops . After finishing we can cut the black yarn. Continue where we left off with the red color. Chain one, turn around and start the first row of the shoe. (fig 98-101)

fig 98 fig 99

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fig 100

fig 101

**Round 1.** 22 sc in the front loops of the red sole (22)(fig 102)

fig 102

**Rounds 2-4.** sc around (22)

**Round 5**. sc 4, 6 dec, sc 6 (16)

Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.

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# HEADBAND

For the head band we'll need red and black color yarn.  For the head band with red color yarn and a 4 mm crochet hook ch 46+ch5, starting in the 6th chain from the hook (fig 103) we sc 45 (fig 104). Fasten off and hide away the ends.

For the antennas we use black color yarn.Make 2.

Round 1. sc 6 in magic ring (6)

Round 2. inc 6 (12)

Round 3. sc around (12)

Round 4. dec 6 (6)

Round 5-7. sc around (6) Fasten off leaving a long tail for sewing.

fig 103

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fig 104

## BUCURA ASSEMBLY

Embroider the eyebrows and eyes to the face. If needed we form the face as we wish. Sew the muzzle

We sew the ears to the head between rounds 9-14 of the head.

We sew the button to the dress. We sew the antennas to the headband first between stitches 14-15 of the headband, and second one between stitches 25-26. Make sure when putting the headband in position the antennas are on top middle of the head.

Hide all the ends, your Cocoa the spring bunny is ready.

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Thank you for choosing my pattern. Your support allows me to continue sharing handmade joy and creating designs that connect generations. I'm honored to be part of your crochet journey.

For more patterns, crochet tips, and cozy inspiration:

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# Bucura's Story

## The Bear of the Sânziene Meadows

Far away in the heart of Transylvania, where rolling hills meet ancient forests and the mountains wear crowns of mist, there is a magical meadow known only to those who believe in wonder.

Every year, on the eve of Sânziene, when the air is filled with the sweet scent of wildflowers and the stars shine a little brighter, tiny fairy lights dance among the golden blossoms. It is said that the Sânziene fairies visit these meadows, blessing the flowers with joy, kindness, and good fortune.

One midsummer night, as the moon bathed the meadow in silver light, a very special flower began to glow. From its petals emerged a tiny bear with the gentlest smile and the warmest heart. The fairies named her Bucura, which means "joy."

Bucura grew up among the wildflowers, butterflies, and singing birds of the enchanted meadow. She loved weaving flower crowns from Sânziene blossoms and listening to the stories carried by the mountain winds.

Wherever Bucura went, happiness followed. She shared flowers with lonely animals, comforted tired travelers, and reminded everyone that magic can be found in the smallest things—a blooming flower, a sunny morning, a kind word, or a warm hug.

Bucura believes that every flower carries a wish and every act of kindness plants a new seed of happiness in the world.

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