

BOMB POP Amigurumi

By M.E. Williams for DIYLife.com



IMPORTANT: Before you begin, read pattern carefully, all the way through, and mark the options you're choosing. The instructions will vary depending on these options.

Materials:

- Worsted weight yarn in medium blue, white, and red.
I used Lion Brand Wool Ease in Blue Heather, White/Multi (white with an iridescent strand), and Ranch Red. I chose the White/Multi because it looks "frosty."
- Set of 5 double-pointed knitting needles, sz 5 (3.75mm)
- Crochet hook, size F (3.75mm)*
- Fiber-fill stuffing
- Yarn needle

- Removable stitch marker
- Scissors
- Pencil

Optional But Recommended (you'll need at least a few of these):

- Small square of corrugated cardboard, at least 2"x2"
- Eyes - safety, or movable/"googly" (I used 9mm safety eyes; movable eyes require glue)
- Weighted filling - small amount of beanbag filling, plastic BBs, plastic or glass beads, etc.
If you use something with small particles, wrap them in a section of nylon stocking and tie off both ends. You may use several "packets" of this kind.
- Worsted weight yarn in beige (I used Red Heart Soft in Off-White)
- PVA Glue (Elmer's, etc) or hot glue gun and sticks
- Black yarn - scrap
- Popsicle stick or drinking straw (standard size)
- Craft knife

Truly Optional (if you choose these items, you won't need all of them):

- Cardboard tube (such as a paper towel roll)
- Catnip (small amount tied in nylon stocking; can use several portions like this)
- Bamboo skewer - thin
- Sharp nail

How to use the truly optional items:

- The cardboard tube can be used to reinforce the structure of the "popsicle" part of the Bomb Pop.
- The catnip can be used instead of weighted filling, if the Bomb Pop is being made as a cat toy.
- The bamboo skewer may be helpful if you create a last-minute handle, because it can stabilize the floppiness. If you use it, **the result is *for display only***.
- The nail is solely useful for punching a hole into the cardboard circle, when you're making a last-minute handle that you wish to reinforce with a bamboo skewer.

These uses will be explained in further detail in the pattern itself.

GAUGE: Is not important in this project, but try to knit and crochet firmly.

This pattern should work well with bulkier yarns, and even with more stitches in the round (as long as you keep a multiple of 6), but you may need to add more rows to each color's section to maintain the shape. Use needles at least 2-3 sizes too small for the yarn, and use a crochet hook with the same diameter as the needles.

Getting Started

First, decide what you want your Bomb Pop to look like. Will it be realistic, with a stick? Will it stand on a shelf? Or will it be a cat toy? Each style is made differently.

A realistic Bomb Pop will have a stick. However, it can't stand on its own on a shelf with a stick; it can only be displayed on its side. If it has a stick, it can't be used as a toy.

Omitting the stick and weighting the base allows this amigurumi to take on more character and stand on its own on a shelf. It will look more like a little rocket than a Bomb Pop, but it can be used as a toy. This is how I chose to make mine... then, when I finished, I didn't like the look and wound up adding a stick anyway, which is more difficult when it's a last-minute decision. Instructions for a last-minute stick are included.

You can add eyes and a smile to either of the first two styles.

Skip the eyes, the smile, the stick, and the weighted stuffing if you want to make this for your cat, and add catnip to the stuffing. This option is comedy gold, because it will look like your cat is eating a Bomb Pop. You may be able to add the "last-minute stick" (minus the stabilizing bamboo skewer) to this version, if you wish.

If you choose a stick, what will the stick be like? A plain popsicle stick is easy, but there are also two ways to cover your stick: wrap it in yarn, or crochet a "stick" and use the real stick or a drinking straw as internal support. The crocheted version looks much better, and is also the basis for a last-minute handle (which uses a straw).

Have you decided? OK, let's go!

Bomb Pop Base

Choose A or B.

A) Crochet option (RECOMMENDED):

If you know how to join rounds, you may; add your turning chain to these instructions. If you don't know how to join rounds, don't sweat it, just crochet in a spiral. Though it doesn't matter which you do, the directions assume you're crocheting in a spiral.

1A. WITH BLUE YARN, Using the magic/adjustable ring technique, form loop & pull yarn through onto hook.

2A. Chain 1.

3A. Crochet over both strands in ring: 6 sc. Make sure tail is in back.
Tighten ring.

*****If you are planning for your Bomb Pop to have a stick, put stick or straw in center of magic/adjustable ring before you tighten it, and tighten around stick. Remove stick for the time being.*****

4A. 2 sc in each stitch (AKA 2 sc increase x 6). 12 sts.

5A. *2 sc in st, 1 sc* x 6. 18 sts.

6A. *2 sc in st, 1 sc, 1 sc* x 6. 24 sts.

7A. Bind off & leave a tail at least 6" long (recommended), or place working loop on holder. If you cut the tail, tie it loosely to the cast-on yarn in a square knot on the wrong/non-working/back side of the medallion.

*****If you are making the cat toy version, omit steps 8A and 9A.*****

8A. Use medallion as template to draw rough circle on cardboard: trace around edge of medallion with pencil.

9A. Use scissors to cut circle from cardboard, inside trace lines. Perfection isn't important - we're just looking to make something that more-or-less fits the interior of the circle.

- If you're not making a "stick" for this, leave yourself the option by using the sharp nail to punch a hole in the center of the base large enough for a bamboo skewer.
- If you are making a "stick," whether it's a bare popsicle stick or one that will be covered with yarn, make a hole in the middle of the cardboard circle with the craft knife: slit-shaped for an actual stick, circular for a drinking straw. Make sure that the "stick" fits through the hole.

10A. Picking up stitches:

- Place the medallion working-side down. Looking at it from above (wrong side), put crochet hook through from wrong side to right side. Pick up either the loop that's on the holder, or, if you bound that stitch off, a new strand of BLUE yarn with at least a 6" tail.
- Working **counter-clockwise** around the edge of the circle, use the crochet hook to go from wrong-side (top) of the medallion to right-side (bottom). Pick up a loop of the working yarn and pull it through to the wrong side. Slip a DPN into the loop. The right leg of each stitch picked up should be towards the outer edge of the circle. Start a new DPN every 6 sts.
- If using the new strand of yarn, try not to leave much slack; give the cut end a tug every few stitches to make sure they aren't too loose on the needles, but don't pull so tightly that you won't be able to work the stitches. This will give you a clean join between your knit and crochet sections.
- Pick up 24 sts, one in each crochet chain around edge. (If you have one chain extra at the end, maybe from a turning chain mistake, it's not a big deal, just don't pick up a stitch in that chain). You should have 4 DPNs of 6 sts each.
- Thread cast-on tail onto yarn needle. Run around a few stitches at base to secure yarn end. Pull through to interior and secure with a few more stitches. Snip end.

- Pull working yarn from exterior bottom of medallion, between the points of the first and last DPN, to the center of the circle. Ready to knit.
- Stitches will be knitted **clockwise** (from a vantage point above the medallion, with the DPNs on top of it).

11A. You should not need a stitch marker to denote the beginning of the round, since there will be a little bump at the edge of the medallion. If there isn't, place a stitch marker at the base of the first stitch.

B) Knit option (here for the crochet-shy, but not recommended or shown):

1B. WITH BLUE YARN, Cast on 6 sts and distribute across 3 DPNs - 2 per needle. (4th DPN is your working needle)

2B. Join round, being careful not to twist stitches. Hook marker to first stitch.

3B. Knit in front and back of each stitch 6 times. 12 sts.

4B. *K in f + b of stitch, K1* 6 times. 18 sts.

5B. *K in f + b of stitch, K1, K1* 6 times. 24 sts. Move marker to base of 1st stitch in round.

6B. Purl one round (24 sts) even. AT THE SAME TIME, redistribute stitches to incorporate 5th DPN: 6 sts per needle on 4 DPNs with the 5th DPN as your working needle.

7B: Put cast-on yarn tail on needle, draw through original 6 stitches in a circle, pull to tighten, weave in and cut end.

If you are planning for your Bomb Pop to have a stick, put stick or straw in center of 6 original stitches before you tighten the circle, and tighten around stick. Remove stick for the time being.

If you are making the cat toy version, omit steps 8B and 9B.

8B. Use circle you've just knitted as template to draw rough circle on cardboard: trace around edge of medallion with pencil.

9B. Use scissors to cut circle from cardboard, inside trace lines. Perfection isn't important - we're just looking to make something that more-or-less fits the interior of the circle.

- If you're not making a "stick" for this, leave yourself the option by using the sharp nail to punch a hole in the center of the base large enough for a bamboo skewer.

- If you are making a "stick," whether it's a bare popsicle stick or one that will be covered with yarn, make a hole in the middle of the cardboard circle with the craft knife: slit-shaped for an actual stick, circular for a drinking straw. Make sure that the "stick" fits through the hole.

The base of the bomb pop is ready to go!

Handle • Options

You may want to prepare the popsicle stick at this point. Decide how much of the stick you'd like to see sticking out of your Bomb Pop. Two inches is a good choice.

If you're using a plain popsicle stick, don't do anything to it except:

- Put some glue around the edges of the hole in the cardboard, then slide the stick into the hole, leaving as much sticking out of the bottom of the circle as you'd like to have for a handle. Add more glue near hole, if desired. Let dry.

If you'd like to wrap the stick with yarn:

- Spread glue on the bottom inch of one side of the stick. Put one inch of yarn, with its end pointing upwards, into the glue. Let dry.
- On the side with the glued-down yarn end, spread as much of the stick as you'd like to be able to see with glue. Starting at the bottom of the stick, and working your way towards the center, wrap the yarn around and around the stick. Snip yarn end at last wrap and glue yarn end down. Let dry.
- You should have a stick with a few inches spiral-wrapped with yarn.
- Put some glue around the edges of the hole in the cardboard, then slide the uncovered stick end through the hole, leaving the yarn-wrapped portion sticking out of the bottom. Add more glue near hole, if desired. Let dry.

If you'd like to crochet a stick:

- Skip to the end of this pattern and read the "Last-Minute Stick" instructions. Follow only the instructions for crocheting a tube with off-white yarn. Set tube aside.
- Put some glue around the edges of the hole in the cardboard, then slide the popsicle stick or straw into the hole, leaving enough sticking out of the bottom to fill the crocheted tube (which is still set aside). Add more glue near hole, if desired. Let dry.

Bomb Pop Body • All Styles

Note: It's important to stuff lightly and carefully, paying attention to the overall shape of the Bomb Pop. A rib stitch gives the characteristic Bomb Pop ridges, but rib stitches are elastic. Therefore, it would be easy to overstuff this particular design: try to keep it cylindrical, and not too much fatter than the base medallion. If you have problems making your stuffing even, try adding in smaller amounts at a time, and try pushing it around from the exterior.

A second note: Although it is sometimes desirable to work a "jogless jog" in stripe patterns that are knit in the round, so there's no jagged break in stripes, the jogless jog is not recommended here. The visible purl stitches on the right side of the fabric break up the color change anyway.

Work in the round.

Working with BLUE YARN.

K, P, P x 6.

Work 12 rows in Knit, Purl, Purl pattern.



Bomb pop base from below, with picked-up stitches and a few rows.

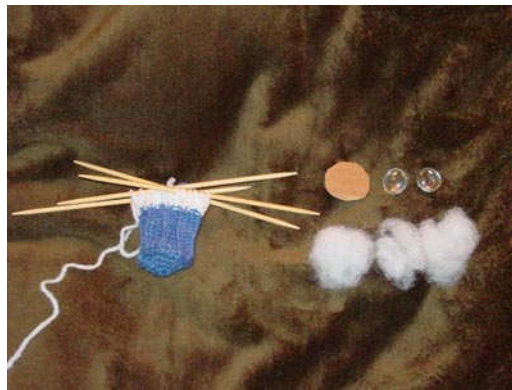
If using the crocheted "stick" with a straw or a real popsicle stick inside, skip to the "Last-Minute Stick" instructions at the end of this pattern. Follow **ONLY** the instructions for sewing the top edge of the tube to the cast-on circle at the base of the Bomb Pop. Do not close off center of join.

Place cardboard circle and handle in resulting tube, down at the base. Push stick or straw through hole you left for it in cast-on circle. If using the crocheted stick, continue gently pushing until the stick or straw has filled the tube to the bottom. If using straw, trim top of straw to 6" above cardboard circle.

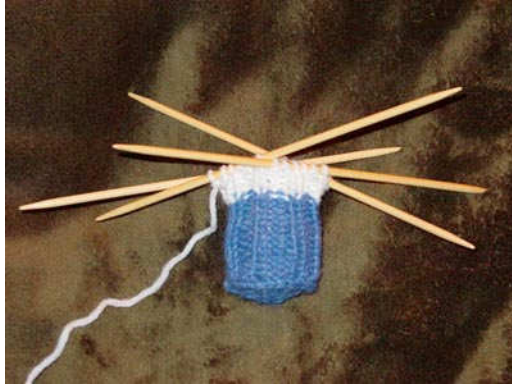
(If you can't knit around the straw at this point, you can wait until later to add the circle, handle, and all stuffing, but you won't be able to stuff as effectively or evenly.)

Add small amounts of fiber-fill, just a pinch or two at a time. If desired, add some weighted filling near the bottom. Stuff lightly to near top of existing stitches, maintaining shape.

Cut blue yarn, leaving at least a 6" tail.



Blue and a few rows of white, with a cardboard circle, a few flat glass marbles, and some tufts of fiber-fill stuffing.



*Same as above, with stuffing inside.
The stuffing is uneven just below the color join;
it had to be evened out after I took this photo.*

Change to WHITE YARN. Leave at least a 6" tail. Hold yarn in place, keeping stitches from being too loose, but do not tie.

K, P, P x 6. Work three of these rows.

Gently tug blue and white yarn tails to even out stitches. Keeping tails towards center/interior of Bomb Pop, tie tails together in a square knot close to stitches. Trim tails to an inch or two.

K, P, P x 6 for nine more rows.

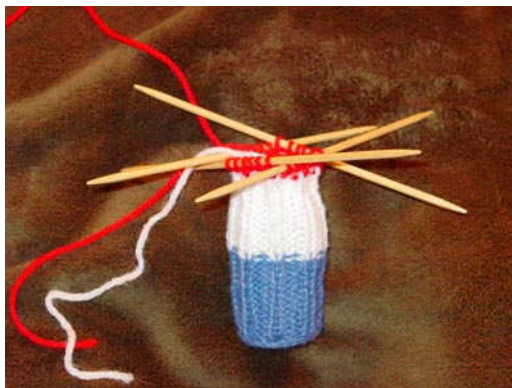
Stuff lightly to near top of existing stitches, maintaining shape.

Cut white yarn, leaving at least a 6" tail.

Change to RED YARN.

K, P, P x 6. Work three of these rows.

Gently tug white and red yarn tails to even out stitches. Keeping tails towards center/interior of Bomb Pop, tie tails together in a square knot close to stitches. Trim tails to an inch or two.

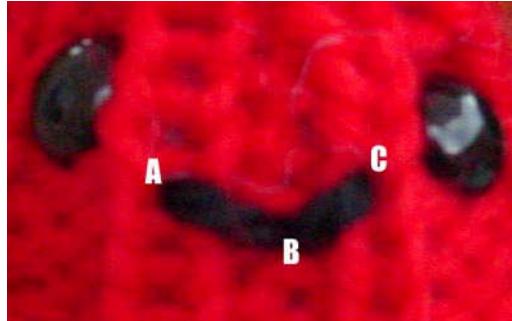


*White to red color join,
with three rows of red and cut yarn tails that haven't been tied yet.
Stuffed to near top of white section.*

K, P, P x 6 for nine more rows.

Stuff lightly to near top of existing stitches, maintaining shape.

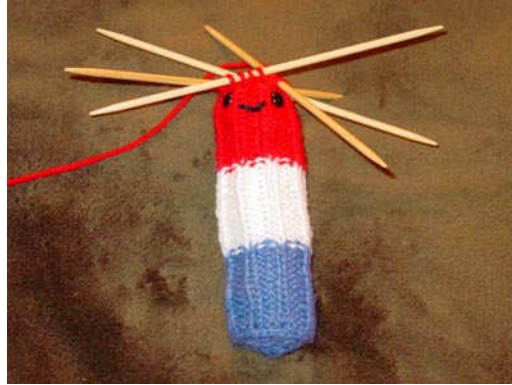
At this point, you may choose to add safety eyes and/or sew in a mouth with black scrap yarn. Please see below for placement. Don't pull mouth stitches too tight. I wrapped the ends of the yarn for the smile around the shanks of the safety eyes to keep the ends secure.



Mouth stitching placement: Out of Bomb Pop at A (below left eye), into Bomb Pop at B (lower center of mouth area), out of Bomb Pop at C (below right eye), into Bomb Pop at B again, secure yarn ends. Eyes in purl areas with one purl area between them, mouth ends on knit stitches in between.

Optional stuffing: If you have been unable to maintain the cylindrical shape of the Bomb Pop, you can use a tube from the center of a roll of paper towels as a sort of "armature". You will not be able to use safety eyes with this style, unless you punch holes for the shanks. You will have to hide yarn tails around the tube, as you won't be able to hide them in the filling.

- Remove stuffing, including the cardboard round & stick.
- Check roll to make sure it will fit into Bomb Pop interior, and consider painting exterior of roll, white or the appropriate stripes.
- Cut top of roll to around current height of Bomb Pop.
- Spread glue on cardboard round and put roll on top of it, so that the round is like a cap on the end of the roll. Let glue dry.
- Stuff roll firmly with fiber-fill.
- Insert roll into Bomb Pop, stick first. Guide stick through the hole you left for it in the base of the Bomb Pop.



*After *K, p2tog* round.*

Continuing with RED YARN,

K, P2tog x 8. 16 sts.

K1, P1 x 8. Do 5 rounds (or a few more, if you like) in this pattern.

Stuff lightly.

K2tog x 8.

Knit 3 rounds even.

Add small amount of stuffing to fill top.

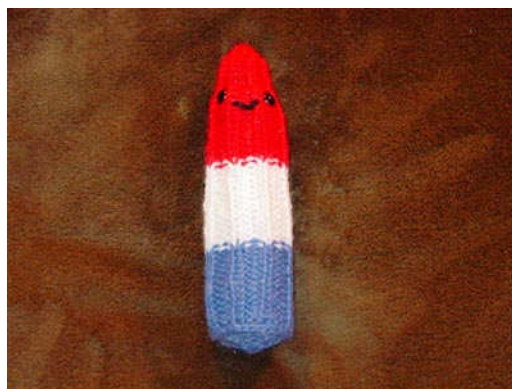
Cut yarn, leaving at least 12". Thread yarn end onto needle. Draw yarn through the 8 remaining stitches twice, remove DPNs, and pull yarn end to tighten.

Push needle through top center of Bomb Pop, then out at side just above the start of the red yarn. Pull enough that the top begins to "pull down" a bit. Snip yarn end very close to side of Bomb Pop, then lightly tug the top so that end pulls into interior.

Remove stitch marker from base.

If desired, glue on googly eyes.

You may be done at this point.



Finished body of Bomb Pop! Yay!

Last Minute Stick

But you may need to add a Last-Minute Stick, and you may not have prepared to do so. If this is the case, you will need your crochet hook, a standard drinking straw, a sharp nail, a bamboo skewer, a yarn needle, and off-white worsted weight yarn.

The finished version pictured here has this kind of stick. I initially made it to be displayed on a shelf, standing up. When I'd finished, I felt like the stick was missing, so I designed the Last-Minute Stick.

If you didn't do so before, use sharp nail to punch a hole into the cardboard at the base of the Bomb Pop. You should be able to do this right through the center of the original cast-on ring.

1. With OFF-WHITE YARN: using the adjustable/magic ring technique, pull the working yarn through the ring, chain 1, and single crochet 6 sts over the loop. Tighten the loop.
2. sc into every stitch, in a spiral, until you have a tube that is the desired length of your handle. Keep the yarn tail in the center of the tube as you work on it (IE, on the side facing away from you as you start crocheting). Work around the outside of the tube. Be careful not to accidentally work cast-on tail.
3. Cut drinking straw to length of tube.
4. Bind off your last working loop, leaving at least a 12" yarn tail.
5. Thread CAST ON tail, which should be coming up from the center of the tube, onto yarn needle.
6. Push yarn needle through center of straw and pull up, so the straw goes into the center of the crocheted tube. Trim the cast-on yarn end; you're done with it.
7. Use CAST OFF tail to stitch top of tube to center of Bomb Pop base. It should be easy to whipstitch the crochet chains around the top of the tube to the cast-on ring at the center of the base medallion.

8. When finished, run cast off tail back through the center of the straw to the bottom of the tube. Pull taut and trim off end.



Stitching Last-Minute Stick onto Bomb Pop.

You'll note that the resulting handle is floppy... really, really floppy. You can't actually use it to hold the Bomb Pop like you would hold a popsicle. To remedy this, run a thin bamboo skewer (around a 3mm-3.5mm diameter, usually used for cooking) from the cast-on ring of the handle, up through the straw, into the base and through the hole you punched in the center of the cardboard circle, and up through the stuffing to the top, cast-off ring of the Bomb Pop.

The pointy end of the skewer will be sticking up through the top, and the bottom, blunt end will be inside the straw in the handle. Push the skewer up a little, so about 1cm more is sticking out of the top. Use scissors to carefully "saw" around the skewer where it comes out of the top of the Bomb Pop; when it's thin enough, snip it or snap it off. Push the top of the skewer back through the top of the Bomb Pop and down into the stuffing, so that the bottom end of the skewer is pushing on the base of the handle.

Don't use this version for anything but display; the skewer gives it structure, but makes it dangerous for play.

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You may make as many of these as you like as gifts, and print out copies of the pattern for friends and family, but please do not sell this pattern, or the things you make with it, or anything based on it.

We don't own the trademark on Bomb Pops; this is intended as an affectionate tribute to a wonderful treat!