Opuntia

presented by Speckerna

Abbreviations & Material
sc = single crochet
* = repeat until end of round/row
( ) = number of stitches
sc = single crochet
slpst = slipstitch
dc = double crochet
tc = treble crochet
– strong wire (3mm strong), 50-60 cm long
– Schachenmayr Catania (green, brown, yellow, light yellow)
– 2,5 mm Hook
– pipe cleaners
– tapestry needle, sewing needle
– flower pot, 10 cm in diameter, cone-shaped
– a piece of strong cardboard, 10 cm in diameter
– hot glue

Part 1

use green yarn
chain 2
6 sc in 2nd from hook
Rnd 1: 2 sc in each st around (12)
Rnd 2: *sc in next st, 2 sc in next st (18)
Rnd 3: *sc in next 2, 2 sc in next st (24)
Rnd 4: *sc in next 3, 2 sc in next st (30)
Rnd 5: *sc in next 4, 2 sc in next st (36)
Rnd 6: *sc in next 5, 2 sc in next st (42)
Rnds 7-20: sc around
Rnd 21: *sc in next 5, sc2tog (36)
Rnd 22: sc around
Rnd 23: *sc in next 4, sc2tog (30)
Rnd 24: sc around
Rnd 25: *sc in next 3, sc2tog (24)
Rnds 26-28: sc around
End with a slpst, leave long end for sewing. Insert wire, push to the edges and leave 5cm of wire on each side.
Part 2

use green yarn
chain 2
6 sc in 2nd from hook
Rnd 1: 2 sc in each st around (12)
Rnd 2: *sc in next st, 2 sc in next st (18)
Rnd 3: *sc in next 2, 2 sc in next st (24)
Rnd 4: *sc in next 3, 2 sc in next st (30)
Rnds 5-13: sc around
Rnd 14: *sc in next 3, sc2tog (24)
Rnd 15: sc around
Rnd 16: *sc in next 2, sc2tog (18)
Rnd 17: *sc in next st, sc2tog (12)

End with a slpst, leave long end for sewing. Insert pipe cleaner, push to the edges and leave 2cm of pipe cleaner on each side to stick it into part 1.

Part 3

use green yarn
chain 2
6 sc in 2nd from hook
Rnd 1: 2 sc in each st around (12)
Rnd 2: *sc in next st, 2 sc in next st (18)
Rnd 3: *sc in next 2, 2 sc in next st (24)
Rnds 4-10: sc around
Rnd 11: *sc in next 2, sc2tog (18)
Rnd 12: *sc in next st, sc2tog (12)

End with a slpst, leave long end for sewing. Insert pipe cleaner, push to the edges and leave 2cm of pipe cleaner on each side to stick it into part 1.

Soil

Cut out the cardboard circle before you crochet the soil. The circle should fit perfectly into the pot 1-2cm below the edge. This pattern worked for me, but you might have to adjust it if you crochet less tight.

use brown yarn
chain 2
6 sc in 2nd from hook
Rnd 1: 2 sc in each st around (12)
Rnd 2: *sc in next st, 2 sc in next st (18)
Rnd 3: *sc in next 2, 2 sc in next st (24)
Rnd 4: *sc in next 3, 2 sc in next st (30)
Rnd 5: *sc in next 4, 2 sc in next st (36)
Rnd 6: *sc in next 5, 2 sc in next st (42)
Rnd 7: *sc in next 6, 2 sc in next st (48)
**Rnd 8:** *sc in next 7, 2 sc in next st (54)*

*under ideal circumstances the soil now matches the cardboard circle perfectly*

**Rnd 9:** *sc in next 5, sc2tog*

**Rnd 10:** *sc in next 3, sc2tog*  insert cardboard after the first half

**Rnd 11:** *sc in next 1, sc2tog*

End with a slpst and leave long end for sewing.

A quicker solution would be to crochet the soil as big as the circle, fasten off and just sew both together.

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**Blossom**

use yellow yarn

chain 2

6 sc in 2\textsuperscript{nd} from hook

**Rnd 1:** * sc in next st, 2 sc in next st

**Rnds 2-3:** * sc

**Rnd 4:** * sc in next 2 st, 2 sc in next st  change to light yellow yarn at the end of round

**Rnd 5:** * sc

**Rnd 6:** *1 dc, 1 tc, chain 1, 1 tc, 1 dc in next st, slpstitch in next st.*

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Use a sharp pencil or a tiny screwdriver to make 2 wholes into the cardboard and through the soil. Pull the part 1 wire through and sew it to the soil.

Apply tension to the wire inside the cactus and secure it as shown on the picture. In case of need use a gripper to force the needle through the cardboard.

Secure soil inside the pot using hot glue.

Add the other parts and blossoms and have fun with your new cactus ^^