African flower turtle

US terms



Finished size

About 5¾ in (14.5 cm) long from head to tail, 6¾ in (17 cm) across the flippers and 1¾ in (4.4 cm) tall at the middle of the shell

Skill

Intermediate

Eight pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn

Medium (4), 7 colors

Hook

3.5 mm (US E-4)

Gauge

20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet, in a spiral.

What you need

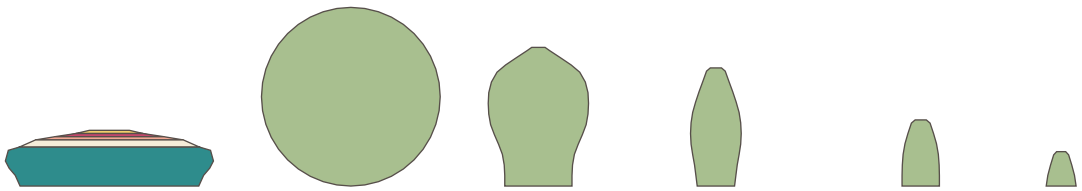
Yarn A: butter yellow, shell	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: raspberry, shell	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: peach pink, shell	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: cream, shell	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: teal, shell	**about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: sage green, several of the pieces	**about 70 yd (64 m), an estimate**
Yarn G: dark brown, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 65 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins, scissors and two black plastic eyes with washers, 8 mm.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

The pieces



Shell **Underside** **Head** **Front flipper x 2** **Back flipper x 2** **Tail**

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Gauge

20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet, in a spiral.

To check it, work a flat circle: 6 sc in a magic ring, then 6 more sc in each round (12, 18, 24, 30, 36). After round 6 it should measure about 2¼ in (5.5 cm) across. The stitches should be tight enough that the stuffing does not show.

Use any hook that gives you this. If you count more stitches than this in 4 in (10 cm), change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, to a smaller one.

Notes

- The shell is worked in joined rounds, as its lines say; every other piece is worked in a continuous spiral. The right side faces you all the time: do not turn. In a spiral do not join: put the marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up.
- Square brackets hold a repeat; work it as many times as the line says. The number in parentheses is the count at the end of the round.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work round 1 into the loop and pull the tail to close it. Without a magic ring: for the shell, ch 4, join with a sl st in the first ch to make a ring, and work round 1 into this ring as it is written; for every other piece, ch 2 and work round 1 into the first ch.
- Center line: places on a piece are given by round and by stitches from a center line. It is half way round from where the rounds begin. Mark it with a pin or a scrap of yarn as listed here, run it straight from round 1 to the last round by eye, and count out from it along the round, in stitches and half stitches.
- Head: the center line runs through the middle of stitch 14 of round 5 (27 sts). It faces down, round 1 at the front end.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the toy. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- In every step of putting it together: where a piece meets or overlaps another, sew through both. Where no tail is left or a tail is too short, sew with a new length of the yarn of the piece you are putting on.
- To work sc2tog, put the hook under the front loop only of each of the next 2 stitches, yarn over, pull through both loops, yarn over, pull through 2 loops.
- For a child under three, or a pet, embroider the eyes instead: satin stitch dots of the same size in G (dark brown).
- The rounds and stitches are the same for every size; the yarn and the hook make the difference. Lengths in the words (tails, details) are for Standard, the size written here: for another size multiply them by the number in its line.
- Small: fine (2, sport) yarn, 2.25 mm (B-1) hook, 27 sc and 30 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 4¼ in (11 cm) long from head to tail, 5 in (12.5 cm) across the flippers and 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) tall at the middle of the shell; eyes 6 mm; multiply lengths by 0.74; about 0.74 times the yarn.
- Large: bulky (5, chunky) yarn, 5 mm (H-8) hook, 14 sc and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 8¼ in (21 cm) long from head to tail, 9¾ in (25 cm) across the flippers and 2 5/8 in (6.7 cm) tall at the middle of the shell; eyes 11 mm; multiply lengths by 1.4; about 1.4 times the yarn.
- Jumbo: super bulky (6, plush or velvet) yarn, 6.5 mm (K-10½) hook, 11 sc and 12.1 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 10½ in (26.5 cm) long from head to tail, 12¼ in (31 cm) across the flippers and 3¼ in (8.3 cm) tall at the middle of the shell; eyes 15 mm; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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Instructions

US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **MR** magic ring, **Rnd** round, **st** stitch, **sp** space.

sc2tog 2 sc made into one, **yo** yarn over the hook, **RS** right side, the one that shows.

2 sc in next st: both in one stitch. **sc in next 7 dc**: one in each. **ch-1 sp**: the gap under the one chain; the hook goes in the gap.

[ ] 5 times: work what is inside 5 times in all. **( )**: all of it goes into the one place.

(12 dc, 6 ch-1 sps): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Special stitches

long sc (Insert the hook where the line says): Two rounds below, yarn over and pull up a loop as tall as the round you are working, yarn over, pull through both loops (United Kingdom: long dc) MR: magic ring.

Shell

Yarns in order of use: A, butter yellow; B, raspberry; C, peach pink; D, cream; E, teal.

Worked in joined rounds.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 3 (counts as 1 dc), dc in MR, ch 1, **[**2 dc in MR, ch 1**] 5 times**; pull the tail to close the ring; join with a sl st in the top of the ch 3 (12 dc, 6 ch-1 sps) Fasten off A.
☐ **Rnd 2**	Join B with a sl st in any ch-1 sp, ch 3 (counts as 1 dc), (dc, ch 1, 2 dc) in the same sp, (2 dc, ch 1, 2 dc) in each of next 5 ch-1 sps; join with a sl st in the top of the ch 3 (24 dc, 6 ch-1 sps) Fasten off B.
☐ **Rnd 3**	Join C with a sl st in any ch-1 sp, ch 3 (counts as 1 dc), 6 dc in the same sp, 7 dc in each of next 5 ch-1 sps; join with a sl st in the top of the ch 3 (42 dc: 6 petals of 7) Fasten off C.
☐ **Rnd 4**	Join D with a sl st in the first dc of any petal, ch 1, **[**sc in next 7 dc, long sc in the gap between the two groups of rnd 2 below**] 6 times**, the first sc in the same st; join with a sl st in the first sc (48 sts) Fasten off D.
☐ **Rnd 5**	Join E with a sl st in the middle sc (the fourth of the seven) of any petal, ch 2 (counts as 1 hdc), (ch 1, hdc) in the same st, **[**hdc in next 7 sts, (hdc, ch 1, hdc) in next st**] 5 times**, hdc in next 7 sts; join with a sl st in the top of the ch 2 (54 hdc, 6 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 1, sc in each hdc and in each ch-1 sp around, beginning in the same st; join with a sl st in the first sc (60 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**, beginning in the same st; join with a sl st in the first sc (54 sc)

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☐ **Rnd 8**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 7 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**, beginning in the same st; join with a sl st in the first sc	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, beginning in the same st; join with a sl st in the first sc	(48 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 30 in (76 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff it yet. Rounds 6 to 9 draw the edge in and make it a bowl.	

Underside

Yarn F, sage green.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off and weave in the end. Do not stuff.	

Head

Yarn F, sage green.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnds 6 to 9**	Sc in each st around	(27 sc)

6 7 8 9

☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**	(24 sc)

Fix the eyes now: two 8 mm black plastic eyes, on the head on round 4, one to each side, 8½ stitches from the center line (7 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). For a child under three, or a pet, leave them out and embroider them later.

☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 3 times**	(21 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(18 sc)

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☐ **Rnds 13 to 15** 13 14 15	Sc in each st around	(18 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 18 in (46 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

Front flipper: make 2

Yarn F, sage green.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(5 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st	(7 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in next st, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	(9 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts	(11 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st	(13 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts	(14 sc)
☐ **Rnds 7 to 8** 7 8	Sc in each st around	(14 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	Sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in each st around	(10 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 5 stitches.	

Back flipper: make 2

Yarn F, sage green.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(5 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st	(7 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in next st, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	(9 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnds 5 to 7** 5 6 7	Sc in each st around	(10 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 5 stitches.	

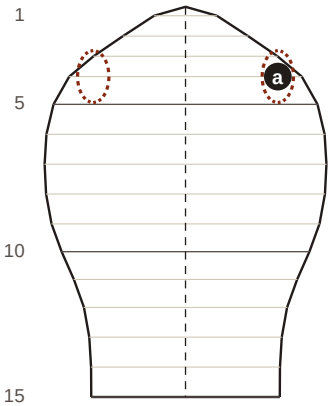
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Tail

Yarn F, sage green.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(4 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**	(8 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	Sc in each st around	(8 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 4 stitches.	

Assembly



Head: a eyes

A number is the step below that puts it on; a letter is put on under Finishing. Each line is a round, counted as the rounds are worked. The upright broken line is the center line. A place with a broken edge is on the far side.

1. Hold the shell and the underside with their wrong sides together, the shell toward you, and pin them together at their last rounds (48 sts each). Sew them together all the way round with the tail of the shell, stitch to stitch: through both loops of a stitch of the shell, then both loops of the next stitch of the underside. Stuff the shell firmly, a little at a time, before the last 8 stitches are sewn, so that the flower domes and the underside stays nearly flat.

2. Find the stitch of the seam that lies straight below the middle of one petal and mark it with a pin: it is the front. All places from here are counted along the seam, in its 48 stitches, from this pin. Pin the head to the front: the open edge of the head (18 sts) lies round the seam, its middle on the pin, the center line of the head down. Its upper half lies over the last three rounds of the shell, its lower half over the last two rounds of the underside, and it is about 6 stitches of the seam wide. It points forward and only very slightly up, so that the lowest part of the head touches the table. Sew all the way round with the tail of the head, adding stuffing before the last few stitches.

3. Pin the two front flippers to the seam: the flat edge of each lies along the seam, its middle 8½ stitches from the pin, one to each side, so that it covers 5 stitches of the seam. They point out and forward and lie flat on the table; bend the outer half of each a little toward the back with your fingers (nothing holds it). Sew through both layers of the 5-stitch edge with its tail.

4. Pin the two back flippers to the seam: the flat edge of each lies along the seam, its middle 19 stitches from the pin, one to each side, so that it covers 5 stitches of the seam. They point back and out. Sew through both layers of the 5-stitch edge with its tail.

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5. Pin the tail to the seam: its flat edge lies along the seam, its middle on the stitch opposite the pin (24 stitches from it), so that it covers 4 stitches of the seam. It points straight back. Sew through both layers of the 4-stitch edge with its tail.

Finishing

- Put in the plastic eyes when the words of a piece say so, or embroider eyes in the same places with the other details. Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle when the pieces round the place are sewn on; begin and end each strand on the wrong side of a flat piece, inside a stuffed one. Satin stitch is straight stitches side by side until the shape is filled. Backstitch is a line of short stitches end to end: bring the needle up one stitch ahead, put it down at the end of the stitch before, and repeat.
- Eyes: two 8 mm black plastic eyes, on the head on round 4, one to each side, 8½ stitches from the center line (7 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line).
- Mouth: with G (dark brown), in backstitch, a smile, one curve about ½ in (13 mm) wide that dips 3/16 in (5 mm) below its ends. Its two ends are on the head on round 2, one to each side of the center line.
- Weave every tail through the toy and trim it. For a toy that will be played with, go round each seam a second time with a new length of yarn. Check the seams and small parts from time to time.

In all: 8 pieces; 1,328 stitches (390 in the shell, 216 in the underside, 312 in the head, 131 in each front flipper, 61 in each back flipper, 26 in the tail).

Found a mistake in this pattern? Tell us at flossfield.com, under Make a request.

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