Baby mermaid tail

Newborn · US terms



Finished size

About 18 in (46 cm) around at the waist and 9 in (23 cm) around at the foot, 16½ in (42 cm) long without the fin; each fan of the fin about 4¼ in (11 cm) long

To fit a length of 18 to 22 in (46 to 56 cm)

Skill

Intermediate

Post stitches, shells in joined rounds and color changes

Yarn

Light (3), 4 colors

Hook

4.5 mm (US 7)

Gauge

16 stitches and 10½ rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In shell stitch in rounds.

What you need

Yarn A: mint, main color	**about 115 yd (105 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: sea glass, stripe	**about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: aqua, stripe	**about 50 yd (46 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: lagoon, part of the tail and the fin fan	**about 70 yd (64 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 120 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).

Hook: 4.5 mm (US 7), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors and a tape measure.

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.

Sizes

Size	Fits	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Newborn (this file)	**a length of 18 to 22 in (46 to 56 cm)**	**18 in (46 cm) around at the waist, 9 in (23 cm) around at the foot, 16½ in (42 cm) long without the fin**	**about 300 yd (274 m)**
3 to 6 months	a length of 23 to 26 in (58 to 66 cm)	21 in (53 cm) around at the waist, 13 in (33 cm) around at the foot, 19½ in (50 cm) long without the fin	about 420 yd (384 m)

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6 to 12 months	a length of 26 to 30 in (66 to 76 cm)	24 in (61 cm) around at the waist, 15 in (38 cm) around at the foot, 22½ in (57 cm) long without the fin	about 545 yd (498 m)

Gauge

16 stitches and 10½ rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in shell stitch in rounds.

Check it on the tail itself when 15 rounds are done, laid flat and not stretched: the tail in Newborn, with 12 shells in a round, is about 9 in (23 cm) wide as it lies, in two layers, in 3 to 6 months, with 14, about 10½ in (27 cm), in 6 to 12 months, with 16, about 12 in (30 cm), and rounds 6 to 15 are about 3¾ in (9.5 cm) deep. If they measure more, start again with a smaller hook; if they measure less, with a larger one.

Notes

- It is for a baby who is awake and watched: the waist stays open and lies no higher than under the arms. It is not for sleep, for a car seat or for carrying.
- Do not turn between the rounds of the tail. The right side is the side that faces you as you work. The fin is worked in rows, to and fro.
- The ch 2 at the start of a round or a row does not count as a stitch: the first stitch goes into the st the chain rises from. The ch 1 does not count either; in the foot and in the last row of a fan the first sc goes into the st the ch 1 rises from. In a round of shells that begins with sl sts it is otherwise: the ch 1 rises from the st of the last sl st, and the sc after it goes into the next st, or into the sp before the next st, as the round says; it is the sc the round is joined to. The ch 3 at the start of a round counts as a dc and stands on the first st of the round below, the one the joining sl st was made in; "same st" is that st.
- In joined rounds, the first st of the round below is the one the joining sl st was made in. Where a round begins "Sl st in first st", put the hook in that st once more; the sl sts only walk to the middle of the first shell and are not counted.
- "5 dc in next st" puts all five into that one stitch; so it is with 4, 3 and 2. The sp before next st is the gap between two stitches, under all the loops, not the top of a stitch.
- To change yarn, work the last yarn over of the last stitch of the row before with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn at the end of its stripe, leaving a tail of about 6 in (15 cm), and leave a tail of the same length on the new yarn.
- To change yarn between rounds, make the joining sl st with the new yarn: put the hook in the first stitch, take the new yarn over the hook and pull it through. Cut the old yarn, leaving a tail of about 6 in (15 cm), and leave a tail of the same length on the new yarn.
- Leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) when you begin and when you fasten off, unless another length is given. The ends that are not sewn with are woven in.
- When a ball runs out in the middle of a round, work the last yarn over of a stitch with the next ball, and leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) on both.
- Whip stitch: with the yarn on a yarn needle, pass the needle under both loops of a stitch on one edge and under both loops of the stitch that lies against it on the other edge, and pull the yarn through. Do the same in the next stitch of each edge. On a foundation chain edge, pass the needle under the lower strands of each chain that holds a stitch of row 1. On a side edge there are no loops: pass the needle through the end stitch of the row on one side and the end stitch of the row that lies against it on the other. Fasten a length where the sewing begins and where it ends: sew 2 or 3 times into the same place.

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- Use a soft, smooth yarn that can be washed.
- Buy whole balls from one dye lot.

Instructions

Newborn. US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **Rnd** round, **sp** space, **st** stitch.
FPdc round the stitch below, from the front, **BPdc** round the stitch below, from the back, **sc2tog** 2 sc made into one, **sk** skip, **yo** yarn over the hook, **RS** right side, the one that shows.
5 dc in next st: all in one stitch. **sc in next 2 sts**: one in each.
[ ] 18 times: work what is inside 18 times in all.
(72 dc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Tail

Yarns in order of use: A, mint; B, sea glass; C, aqua; D, lagoon.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 72, join with sl st in first ch to make a loop, without twisting the chain.

Waist

☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 2, dc in each ch around; join with sl st in first dc	(72 dc)
☐ **Rnds 2 to 5**	Ch 2, **[**FPdc around next 2 sts, BPdc around next 2 sts**] 18 times**; join with sl st in first FPdc	(36 FPdc, 36 BPdc)

2 3 4 5

Shells of 5 dc

☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 4 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3	(60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sl st in first st, sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**, 5 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc	(12 sc, 60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 4 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3	(60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	Sl st in first st, sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**, 5 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc	(12 sc, 60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 4 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3	(60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	Sl st in first st, sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**, 5 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc	(12 sc, 60 dc)

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☐ **Rnd 12**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 4 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 13**	Sl st in first st, sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**, 5 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc (12 sc, 60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 14**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 4 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 15**	Sl st in first st, sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**, 5 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc (12 sc, 60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 16**	With B, ch 3 (counts as dc), 4 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sl st in first st, sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**, 5 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc (12 sc, 60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 4 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnds 19 to 21**	Repeat rnds 17 and 18 in turn: every even-numbered rnd is worked as rnd 18, every odd-numbered rnd as rnd 17.

19 20 21

Shells of 4 dc

☐ **Rnd 22**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 3 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**4 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (48 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 23**	Sl st in first st, sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**4 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**, 4 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc (12 sc, 48 dc)
☐ **Rnd 24**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 3 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**4 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (48 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 25**	Sl st in first st, sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**4 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**, 4 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc (12 sc, 48 dc)
☐ **Rnd 26**	With C, ch 3 (counts as dc), 3 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**4 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (48 dc, 12 sc)

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☐ **Rnd 27**	Sl st in first st, sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**4 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**, 4 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc (12 sc, 48 dc)
☐ **Rnd 28**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 3 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**4 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (48 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnds 29 to 31**	Repeat rnds 27 and 28 in turn: every even-numbered rnd is worked as rnd 28, every odd-numbered rnd as rnd 27. 29 30 31

Shells of 3 dc

☐ **Rnd 32**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, sk next 2 sts, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts, **[**3 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in sp before next st, sk next 2 sts**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (36 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 33**	Sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in next st, sk next st, **[**3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st**] 11 times**, 3 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc (12 sc, 36 dc)
☐ **Rnd 34**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st, **[**3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (36 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 35**	Sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in next st, sk next st, **[**3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st**] 11 times**, 3 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc (12 sc, 36 dc)
☐ **Rnd 36**	With D, ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st, **[**3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (36 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 37**	Sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in next st, sk next st, **[**3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st**] 11 times**, 3 dc in next st; join with sl st in first sc (12 sc, 36 dc)
☐ **Rnd 38**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st, **[**3 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st, sk next st**] 11 times**; join with sl st in top of first ch-3 (36 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnds 39 to 41**	Repeat rnds 37 and 38 in turn: every even-numbered rnd is worked as rnd 38, every odd-numbered rnd as rnd 37. 39 40 41

Foot

☐ **Rnd 42**	Ch 1, sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc (48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 43**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 12 times**; join with sl st in first sc (24 sc, 12 sc2tog)

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☐ **Rnds 44 to 45** 44 45	Ch 1, sc in each st around; join with sl st in first sc	(36 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 22 in (56 cm) to sew the foot with.	

Fin fan: make 2

Yarns in order of use: D, lagoon; A, mint.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, ch 11.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Dc in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across	(9 dc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 2 times**, dc in last st	(11 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 2 times**, dc in last st	(13 dc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 2 times**, dc in last st	(15 dc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 2 times**, dc in last st	(17 dc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 2 times**, dc in last st	(19 dc)
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 2 times**, dc in last st	(21 dc)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 9 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 2 times**, dc in last st	(23 dc)
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 10 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 2 times**, dc in last st	(25 dc)
☐ **Row 10**	With A, ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**sk next st, 5 dc in next st, sk next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(7 sc, 30 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Assembly

1. Weave in the ends of the tail, all but the long one at the foot, and those of the fans. Lay the tail flat, right side out, with the join of the last round in the middle of the back. The last round is now doubled: its stitches 10 to 27 in front lie on its stitches 9 to 1 and 36 to 28 behind, 18 pairs. The long tail hangs at stitch 36, at the join. Lead it through stitches 36 to 28 of the back to the fold beside them. With it whip stitch the 18 pairs to each other: stitch 27 with stitch 28 first, and so on across the foot to stitch 10 with stitch 9 at the other fold. Fasten off.

2. Fin: with the front of the tail up, lay the two fans below the closed foot, right sides up, their foundation chains along it: 9 chains of the first against the 9 pairs on the left, 9 chains of the second against the 9 pairs on the right. Cut a length of D, about 20 in (51 cm), for the first fan, and whip stitch each of its chains to the pair that lies against it, through both layers of the foot: 9 stitches.

3. Cut a length of D, about 20 in (51 cm), for the second fan and sew its 9 chains to the 9 pairs on the right in the same way; then sew the two fans to each other along the ends of rows 1 and 2, where they meet, and fasten off.

Finishing

- Weave in what is left of the ends with the yarn needle, changing direction once or twice.

In all: 3 pieces; 3,128 stitches (2,748 in the tail, 190 in each fin fan).

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

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