Striped bandeau bikini top

M, to fit bust 37 in (94 cm) · US terms



Finished size
About 23¾ in (60.5 cm) along the band and about 6 in (15 cm) deep
To fit a bust of 37 in (94 cm)

Skill
Easy
Basic stitches in rows

Yarn
Light (3), 2 colors

Hook
4.5 mm (US 7)

Gauge
16 stitches and 17 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet rib.

You will need

Yarn A: turquoise, main — **about 135 yd (123 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: ivory, contrast — **about 75 yd (69 m), an estimate**
Hook: 4.5 mm (US 7), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: yarn needle, scissors and 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.

Sizes

Size	Bust	Band, end borders included	Depth of the band before it is gathered	Depth at each end	Each tie	Yarn, an estimate
XS	29 in (73.5 cm)	18¾ in (47.5 cm)	4¾ in (12 cm)	3½ in (9 cm)	20 in (51 cm)	about 150 yd (137 m)
S	33 in (84 cm)	21¼ in (54 cm)	4¾ in (12 cm)	3½ in (9 cm)	21 in (53.5 cm)	about 160 yd (146 m)
M (this file)	**37 in (94 cm)**	**23¾ in (60.5 cm)**	**6 in (15 cm)**	**4½ in (11.5 cm)**	**22 in (56 cm)**	**about 210 yd (192 m)**
L	41 in (104 cm)	26¼ in (66.5 cm)	6 in (15 cm)	4½ in (11.5 cm)	23 in (58.5 cm)	about 225 yd (206 m)
1X	45 in (114.5 cm)	28¾ in (73 cm)	6 in (15 cm)	4½ in (11.5 cm)	24 in (61 cm)	about 240 yd (219 m)
2X	49 in (124.5 cm)	31¼ in (79.5 cm)	7½ in (19 cm)	5½ in (14 cm)	25 in (63.5 cm)	about 305 yd (279 m)
3X	53 in (134.5 cm)	33¾ in (85.5 cm)	7½ in (19 cm)	5½ in (14 cm)	26 in (66 cm)	about 340 yd (311 m)

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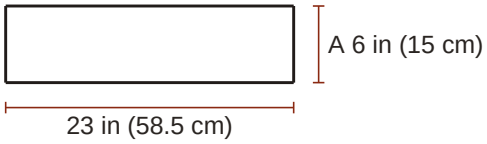
Schematic



Band
A the depth of the band before it is gathered

Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

sc single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
sl st slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
ch chain stitch
RS right side
st stitch
back loop only under the one loop of the stitch that is farther from you

Gauge

16 stitches and 17 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet rib.

> **The swatch.** A test piece to measure and pull out. It is not the start of the pattern. Ch 25; begin in the 2nd ch from the hook and work 26 rows of single crochet rib on 24 sts, about 6 in (15 cm) wide and 6 in (15 cm) high, and measure 4 in (10 cm) in the middle. Use a larger hook if your swatch is small, a smaller one if it is large. Single crochet rows without the rib: 18.5 rows to 4 in (10 cm).

Before you start

- The band comes to about six tenths of the bust. The back stays open and the ties bridge it, so the fit is set by the ties. No fit is promised beyond the measurements given.
- The turning chain (ch 1 for single crochet) never counts as a stitch. Work the first stitch of every row into the first stitch, at the base of the turning chain.
- Single crochet rib: row 1 is plain single crochet, and every row after it is worked in back loops only.
- The band is worked the long way, so that the ribs and the stripes run round the body.
- Wet cotton grows heavier and longer: for swimming, use a yarn whose label calls it fit for swimwear, and tie the top snugly.
- Color changes in rows: work the last yarn over of the last stitch of the row before with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn, leaving an end of about 6 in (15 cm), or, if it is needed again at the same edge within 6 rows and that edge is straight, carry it loosely up the edge.
- In back loop only: insert the hook under the loop of the stitch that is farther from you, and leave the nearer loop free.

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Instructions

Chosen: M, to fit bust 37 in (94 cm). The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a row is done. In UK terms sc is double crochet and sl st is slip stitch.

Band

Yarn B, ivory.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn B, ch 93. Colors, counted from row 1: 2 rows yarn B, 4 rows yarn A; repeat these 6 rows to the end (the last repeat may stop part way).	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(92 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 26**	Ch 1, turn; sc in back loop only of each st across	**(92 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 26: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23 ☐ 24 ☐ 25 ☐ 26

☐ **End** Fasten off. The band comes to about 23 in (58.5 cm) wide and 6 in (15 cm) deep (92 sts, 26 rows). Rows 1 and 2 and rows 25 and 26 are yarn B, so that both long edges are ivory. The rows with odd numbers are right side rows; on the right side the stripes have clean lines, and this side is worn outside.

End border: make 2, one at each short end

Yarn B, ivory.

☐ **Foundation**	Hold the band with the right side facing and one of its two short ends uppermost. Join yarn B at the right-hand end of this short end; ch 1, [sc in the end of each of the next 2 rows, skip the end of the next row] 8 times, sc in the end of each of the next 2 rows (18 sc); the first sc is in the row end where the yarn was joined. This is row 1, and a right side row. It draws the end of the band in to about 4½ in (11.5 cm). Both ends of the band are worked alike.	
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(18 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Keeper

Yarn B, ivory.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn B, ch 9.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 22**	Ch 1, turn; sc in back loop only of each st across	**(8 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 22: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22

☐ **End** Fasten off, leaving an end of about 15 in (40 cm) for sewing. The keeper comes to about 2 in (5 cm) wide and 5¼ in (13.5 cm) long (8 sts, 22 rows).

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Tie: make 4

Yarn A, turquoise.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn A, ch 102.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sl st in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(101 sl sts)**
☐ **End**	Each tie is about 22 in (56 cm) long (the slip stitches draw the chain in). Fasten off.	

Neck cord

Yarn A, turquoise.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn A, ch 249.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sl st in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(248 sl sts)**
☐ **End**	The neck cord is about 54 in (137 cm) long (the slip stitches draw the chain in). Fasten off.	

Assembly

1. Gather the middle: lay the band flat and find its middle, with 46 sts of every row on either side of it. At the middle only, fold the band along its ribs into small pleats, like a fan, until it is about 2 in (5 cm) high there. Cut about 20 in (50 cm) of yarn A, wind it twice round the pleats, pull it snug and knot its two ends together on the wrong side.

2. Keeper: wrap the keeper round the pleats, its right side outside and its ribs running in the same direction as the ribs of the band, so that 4 of its 8 sts lie on either side of the middle and the wound yarn is hidden. Bring its foundation chain and its last row together on the wrong side of the band and sew them to each other, the 8 chs to the 8 sts. Sew this seam to the pleats behind it with 3 stitches, so that the keeper cannot turn.

3. Ties: on the wrong side of each end border, sew one end of a tie behind the first sc of row 2 and one end of another tie behind the 18th sc, the last. The two upper ties and the two lower ties are each tied in a bow at the back.

4. Neck cord: on the wrong side of the top, pass one end of the cord through the keeper from one side to the other, between the pleats and the keeper, above the 3 stitches that hold the seam. Draw the cord through until its two ends are equally long, bring one end up at each side of the keeper and tie the two behind the neck. To wear the top without the cord, draw it out.

Finishing

- Weave in all the ends. Wash as the yarn label says and lay flat to the measurements to dry.

In all: 7 pieces; 3,256 stitches (2,392 in the band, 18 in each end border, 176 in the keeper, 101 in each tie, 248 in the neck cord).

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

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