Big plush octopus

US terms



Finished size
About 8½ in (21.5 cm) tall and 21¾ in (55 cm) across with the arms curled

Skill
Intermediate
17 pieces worked in rounds and rows and sewn together.

Yarn
Super bulky (6), 4 colors

Hook
6.5 mm (US K-10½)

Gauge
10 stitches and 11 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet, in a spiral.

What you need

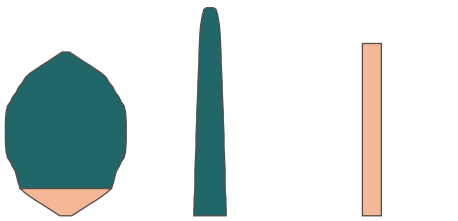
Yarn A: deep teal, head, arm and the details	**about 700 yd (640 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: peach, head, sucker strip and the details	**about 210 yd (192 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: charcoal, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: coral, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 1,000 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 90 yd (82 m).

Hook: 6.5 mm (US K-10½), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins and scissors.

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



Head **Arm x 8** **Sucker strip x 8**

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Gauge

10 stitches and 11 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 4½ in (11.5 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

- Every piece that has rounds is worked in a continuous spiral with the right side facing you: do not join and do not turn. 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.
- Sides: a piece in rows is put on with the side that faced you in row 1 (marked RS) outward, unless the words say something else.
- C and D are for the face only. For Standard and Jumbo, a smooth yarn of medium weight (4, worsted) in the same colors is easier to embroider with than chenille: if you use one, thread two lengths of it in the needle together, and take these two wherever the words say one strand. For Small, whose yarn is smooth and of medium weight already, use one strand.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work round 1 into the loop and pull the tail to close it. Or chain 2 and work round 1 into the first chain.
- Color change: where a line begins "With B," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in B. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- 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 between stitches 30 and 31 of round 13 (60 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the top.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the toy. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- Running stitches go in and out along a line.
- 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.
- No plastic eyes are used: every detail is worked in yarn.
- The rounds and stitches are the same for every size; the yarn and the hook make the difference. Lengths in the words (tails, ovals, details) are for Standard, the size written here: for another size multiply them by the number in its line.
- Small: medium (4, worsted) yarn, 3.5 mm (E-4) hook, 20 sc and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 4¼ in (11 cm) tall and 11 in (28 cm) across with the arms curled; multiply lengths by 0.5; about 0.5 times the yarn.
- Jumbo: jumbo (7) chenille yarn, 9 mm (M/N-13) hook, 7.5 sc and 8.25 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 11¼ in (28.5 cm) tall and 29 in (73.5 cm) across with the arms curled; multiply lengths by 1.3; about 1.3 times the yarn.

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Instructions

US terms.

ch chain, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **MR** magic ring, **Rnd** round, **st** stitch.
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 2 sts**: one in each.
[ ] 6 times: work what is inside 6 times in all.
(6 sc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Special stitches

bobble: [yarn over, insert hook in the stitch, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through 2 loops] 4 times in the same stitch, yarn over, pull through all 5 loops (United Kingdom: a bobble of 4 trebles). Push it out to the right side.

Head

Yarns in order of use: A, deep teal; B, peach.

☐ **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 each st around	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in each st around	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**	(60 sc)

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 30 and 31 of round 13. It faces the front, round 1 at the top.

☐ **Rnds 14 to 22**	Sc in each st around	(60 sc)

14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 24**	Sc in each st around	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	(48 sc)

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☐ **Rnds 26 to 28** 26 27 28	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 29**	With B, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 30**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 31**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 32**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
	Stuff firmly now, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.	
☐ **Rnd 33**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 34**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 35**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside.	

Arm: make 8

Yarn A, deep teal.

Stuff lightly every few rounds as you go, so that the tube still bends.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(8 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts	(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)
☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st	(11 sc)
☐ **Rnds 9 to 11** 9 10 11	Sc in each st around	(11 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnds 13 to 16** 13 14 15 16	Sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 11 sts	(13 sc)
☐ **Rnds 18 to 21** 18 19 20 21	Sc in each st around	(13 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	Sc in next 12 sts, 2 sc in next st	(14 sc)

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☐ **Rnds 23 to 27**	Sc in each st around	(14 sc)
23 24 25 26 27		
☐ **Rnd 28**	Sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts	(15 sc)
☐ **Rnds 29 to 33**	Sc in each st around	(15 sc)
29 30 31 32 33		
☐ **Rnd 34**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 14 sts	(16 sc)
☐ **Rnds 35 to 37**	Sc in each st around	(16 sc)
35 36 37		
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 32 in (81 cm) tail for sewing. Leave rounds 36 and 37 without stuffing for now: they are stuffed lightly when the arm is sewn to the head.	

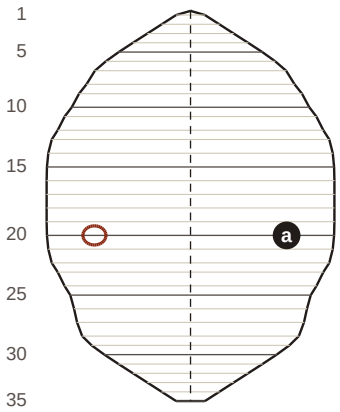
Sucker strip: make 8

Yarn B, peach.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 3 stitches wide. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 4.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	(3 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, sc in next st, bobble in next st, sc in next st	(3 sts)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	(3 sc)
☐ **Rows 4 to 30**	Repeat rows 2 and 3 in turn: every even-numbered row is worked as row 2, every odd-numbered row as row 3.	
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail. Bury it when the strip is sewn on. The bobbles are worked in rows with the wrong side facing you; push them out to the right side.	

Assembly



Head: a cheeks

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.

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1. Sew the eight sucker strips to the arms, one strip to each arm, right side out, before the arms are put on: lay the strip straight along the arm, on any side of it, row 1 of the strip over round 35 of the arm (the third round from the open edge) and row 30 over round 6. With a length of B about 2¼ yd (2 m) long, sew down both long sides and both ends. The side with the strip is the underside of the arm.

2. Pin the eight arms round the head, each with its strip underneath: the middle of each open edge lies on round 27 of the head (48 sts). Put the first two one to each side of the center line, 3 stitches from it (6 stitches apart), and go on round both sides to the back, the middle of each next arm 6 stitches from the one before; so there are four arms on each side, 3, 9, 15 and 21 stitches from the center line, and the last two are 6 stitches apart at the back. Each edge (16 sts) covers about rounds 25 to 29 of the head. The arms point straight out from the head and a little down, so that they lie on the table and the head sits down between them. Sew each all the way round with its tail, and before the last few stitches stuff rounds 36 and 37 of the arm lightly through the gap.

3. Bend the two front arms (the two beside the center line of the head). Each bends sideways at about round 26, away from the other front arm, until the part beyond the bend points straight out to that side, along the table. Hold the bend: with a length of A, take four or five small running stitches along the inner side of the bend (the side that faces away from the other front arm), from round 30 to round 22 of the arm. Draw them up until the arm keeps the bend, and fasten off.

4. Curl all eight arms. The part of each arm nearest the head stays flat on the table, strip down. From about round 18 of the arm roll the rest up, then back over the arm, down and round, until the tip lies in the middle of the coil. The strip is on the outside of the coil. Hold the coil: with a length of A, take a few running stitches from round 18 to round 6 along the inner side of the coil (the side of the arm opposite the strip), draw them up, and catch the tip to the arm where the two touch.

Finishing

- Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle when the pieces round the place are sewn on; begin and end each strand inside the toy. 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.
- Sleepy eyes: with C (charcoal), in backstitch, a closed eye on each side of the head, one curve about 1 in (25 mm) wide that dips ½ in (13 mm) below its ends. The two ends of each curve lie level, between rounds 16 and 17, the inner end 3½ stitches and the outer end 6 stitches from the center line.
- Lashes: with C (charcoal), three straight stitches on each sleepy eye, each about 3/8 in (10 mm) long: one straight down from the lowest point of the curve, and one from half way along the curve on each side of it, slanting down and a little away from the middle one.
- Cheeks: with D (coral), in satin stitch, an oval about 13/16 in (21 mm) wide and ½ in (13 mm) tall, its middle on the head on round 20, one to each side, 7 stitches from the center line (14 stitches apart).
- Mouth: with C (charcoal), in backstitch, a smile, one curve about 13/16 in (21 mm) wide that dips 3/8 in (10 mm) below its ends. Its two ends are on the head on round 19, 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: 17 pieces; 5,962 stitches (1,482 in the head, 470 in each arm, 90 in each sucker strip).

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

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