Catnip fish cat toy

US terms



Finished size
About 4¾ in (12 cm) long and 2¾ in (7 cm) wide

Skill
Easy
One piece, worked in rounds.

Yarn
Medium (4), 4 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.

You will need

Yarn A: aqua, body	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: coral, body	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: black, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: cream, body	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4). Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins, scissors and dried catnip if you like.

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

Abbreviations

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

sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together
MR	magic ring
RS	right side

Gauge

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

20 sc and 22 rounds = 4 in (10 cm), worked 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.

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Before you start

- Every piece 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.
- 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 D," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in D. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the toy. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- 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: 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): about 3½ in (8.9 cm) long and 2 in (5.1 cm) wide; multiply lengths by 0.74; about 0.74 times the yarn. Standard (the size written here): medium (4, worsted) yarn, 3.5 mm (E-4) hook, 20 sc and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 4¾ in (12 cm) long and 2¾ in (7 cm) wide.
- Large: bulky (5, chunky) yarn, 5 mm (H-8) hook, 14 sc and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 6¾ in (17 cm) long and 4 in (10 cm) wide; 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): about 8¾ in (22 cm) long and 5 in (12.5 cm) wide; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a round is done. In UK terms sc is double crochet.

Yarns in order of use: B, coral; D, cream; A, aqua.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	With D, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	**(21 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	With A, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 3 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 11 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(26 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**	**(28 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	With D, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 13 sts**] 2 times**	**(30 sc)**

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☐ **Rnds 11 to 12**	With A, sc in each st around	**(30 sc)**

A box for each round, 11 to 12: tick them off as you go.

11 12

☐ **Rnd 13**	With D, sc in each st around	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	With A, **[**sc in next 13 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(28 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**	**(26 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	With D, sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts**] 2 times**	**(23 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	With A, sc in next 5 sts, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**, sc2tog	**(20 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	Sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts	**(17 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	Sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	With B, **[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 21**	Sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 23**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**	**(17 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 24**	Sc in next 4 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**, 2 sc in next st	**(20 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 25**	Sc in next 2 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts	**(23 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 26**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts**] 2 times**	**(26 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 27**	**[**sc in next 12 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(28 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff very lightly, with a spoonful of dried catnip in the middle if it is for a cat. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 14 stitches, and sew this edge closed, through both layers, with the tail of yarn.	

Finishing

- Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle; 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.
- Eye: with C (black), in satin stitch, a dot about ¼ in (6 mm) across. Lay the fish flat with its nose to the left: the eye is on round 7, 1 stitch above the line from the nose to the middle of the tail edge. Work one on the other side too if you like.
- Mouth: with C (black), in backstitch, a short smile curve: its ends on rounds 2 and 4, 1 stitch below the same line, its middle on round 3, ½ stitch lower. Work it on the other side too if you work a second eye.
- Weave every tail through the toy and trim it. Check the toy from time to time.

In all: 27 rounds; 559 stitches; 2 ends to weave in.

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

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