Crocodile stitch coin purse

Small · US terms



Finished size
About 5 in (12.5 cm) wide at the zipper and 4½ in (11.5 cm) tall, with a wrist loop about 5 in (12.5 cm) long

Skill
Intermediate
It has one special stitch, the scale, worked round the posts of the stitches below.

Yarn
Light (3), 5 colors

Hook
3.5 mm (US E-4)

Gauge
22 stitches and 24 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: copper, the lowest scales and the tassel	**about 30 yd (27 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: old gold, scales	**about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: sage, scales	**about 30 yd (27 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: sea green, scales	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: deep teal, the top scales, the top and the wrist loop	**about 30 yd (27 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 50 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: sewing thread in teal, a sewing needle and pins, a piece of card 1½ in (4 cm) wide, for the tassel, a yarn needle, scissors and a zipper 5 in (12.5 cm) long in teal, with a pull that has a hole.

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	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Small (this file)	**5 in (12.5 cm) wide, 4½ in (11.5 cm) tall**	**about 130 yd (119 m)**
Large	7 in (18 cm) wide, 6 in (15 cm) tall	about 220 yd (201 m)

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Gauge

22 stitches and 24 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

22 stitches and 12 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in double crochet, worked in the round. A scale row, its round of pairs and its round of scales together, is about ½ in (1.5 cm) tall; the scales themselves are longer and hang over the row below.

> **The swatch.** A test piece to measure and pull out. It is not the start of the pattern. Work a swatch in A before you begin: ch 34; row 1, sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across (33 sc); rows 2 to 12, ch 1, turn, sc in each st across (33 sc). Lay it flat and count the stitches over 4 in (10 cm) in its middle. There should be 22 stitches; rows worked back and forth are not quite as tall as rounds, so go by the stitches. If you count more stitches than that, change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, change to a smaller hook. The swatch can be pulled out and its yarn used again.

Swatch foundation	Ch 34.	
Swatch row 1 (RS)	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(33 sc)
Swatch rows 2 to 12	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(33 sc)

Notes

- Each round of the purse is joined with a slip stitch and all of them are worked with the right side facing; never turn. The chain at the start of a round does not count as a stitch: work the first stitch of the round into the first place of the round below, the one the round below was joined in. A round of pairs is joined in the top of the first double crochet of its first pair, and a round of scales in the top of its first sc, or of the first double crochet of its first scale.
- Into a pair or a scale: where the pattern says to work a stitch into a pair, put the hook between the two double crochet of that pair, at their tops. A scale hangs in front of its pair, so a stitch worked into a scale goes into the same place: between the two double crochet of the pair behind it.
- How the scales lie: each is worked on every second pair, with one sc in the pair between, which holds it down. In the next scale row the scales come on the other pairs, so that each lies over the gap between two of the row below. Beside a side fold where the purse widens a scale may stand over another.
- Where the purse widens, two pairs are worked into one place on each side of a side fold: into the first and the last place of the round at the fold where the rounds are joined, and into the two places in the middle of the round at the other fold. Each time adds one scale to the row, first at the one fold and in the next scale row that widens at the other. The folds do not move: one is always where the rounds are joined, before the first place of the round, and the other is half way round.
- To change color where a joined round begins, draw the new yarn through as the last yarn over of the slip stitch that ends the round before. Cut the old yarn at each change, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug.
- The purse has small parts that a child under three could pull off.
- Colors of the purse, round by round. Rounds 1 to 5: A. Rounds 6 to 9: B. Rounds 10 to 13: C. Rounds 14 to 15: D. Rounds 16 to 20: E. The wrist loop is E and the tassel is A.

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Instructions

Small. US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **st** stitch, **sp** space, **rnd** round.
sk skip, **RS** right side, the one that shows.
3 sc in each st: all in one stitch. **ch-1 sp**: the gap under the one chain; the hook goes in the gap.
[ ] 12 times: work what is inside 12 times in all. **( )**: all of it goes into the one place.
(36 sc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Special stitches

pair: 2 double crochet (UK treble), both worked in the place named. The two of them together count as 1 stitch, called a pair.

scale: Worked on the right side, in front of the pair named, round the posts of its two double crochet. Every double crochet of a scale is worked with the hook under the whole post, as under a bar. Turn the purse a quarter, so that its lower end, where you began, is at your left (at your right if you work left-handed), and work 5 double crochet round the post of the first double crochet of the pair, the first of them at its top and the last at its foot. Turn the purse half round, so that the lower end is at the other hand, and work 5 double crochet round the post of the second double crochet, the first at its foot and the last at its top. Turn the purse upright again. The 10 double crochet stand out to both sides of the pair as one rounded scale, its tip pointing down. A scale counts as 1 stitch.

Purse

Yarns in order of use: A, copper; B, old gold; C, sage; D, sea green; E, deep teal.

Leave a tail of 18 in (45.5 cm) before the first chain of the foundation, to close the bottom with.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 36, sl st in first ch to form a ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, sc in each ch around, sl st in first sc to join	(36 sc)
Scale row 1		
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1, sk next 2 sts**] 12 times**, sl st in first pair to join	(12 pairs, 12 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(6 sc, 6 scales)
Scale row 2		
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 2, (pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 10 times**, (pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, sl st in first pair to join	(14 pairs, 14 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 7 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(7 sc, 7 scales)
Scale row 3		
☐ **Rnd 6**	With B, ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 6 times**, (pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, (pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 6 times**, sl st in first pair to join	(16 pairs, 16 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 1, **[**scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 8 times**, sl st in first scale to join	(8 scales, 8 sc)

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Scale row 4

☐ **Rnd 8**	Ch 2, (pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 14 times**, (pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, sl st in first pair to join	(18 pairs, 18 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rnd 9**	Ch 1, **[**scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 9 times**, sl st in first scale to join	(9 scales, 9 sc)

Scale row 5

☐ **Rnd 10**	With C, ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 18 times**, sl st in first pair to join	(18 pairs, 18 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rnd 11**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 9 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(9 sc, 9 scales)

Scale row 6

☐ **Rnd 12**	Ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 18 times**, sl st in first pair to join	(18 pairs, 18 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rnd 13**	Ch 1, **[**scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 9 times**, sl st in first scale to join	(9 scales, 9 sc)

Scale row 7

☐ **Rnd 14**	With D, ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 18 times**, sl st in first pair to join	(18 pairs, 18 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rnd 15**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 9 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(9 sc, 9 scales)

Scale row 8

☐ **Rnd 16**	With E, ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 18 times**, sl st in first pair to join	(18 pairs, 18 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rnd 17**	Ch 1, **[**scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 9 times**, sl st in first scale to join	(9 scales, 9 sc)

Top

☐ **Rnd 18**	Ch 1, 3 sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnds 19 to 20** 19 20	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	(54 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Wrist loop

Yarn E, deep teal.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 61.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(60 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 14 in (35.5 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Weave in all the tails on the wrong side, but not the tail at the start of the purse and the long tail of the wrist loop. Have the purse right side out and smooth every scale down.

2. Close the bottom. Lay the purse flat so that chains 1 to 18 of the foundation lie on the front, with chain 1 at one

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side fold, and chains 19 to 36 on the back. Turn up the lowest scales. The tail at the start hangs at that side fold, beside chain 1. With it whip stitch the two edges together from that fold to the other: 18 stitches, the needle through one chain of the front and the chain of the back that lies behind it, the first through chains 1 and 36, the last through chains 18 and 19. Take two small stitches on the spot, draw the end inside and weave it in there. Smooth the lowest scales down again: they hang over the seam.

3. Zipper. Fold the tape beyond each end of the zipper to its wrong side. Open the zipper. Stitches 1 to 27 of the last round are the front edge and stitches 28 to 54 the back edge. The side folds of the top are before stitch 1, where the round is joined, and between stitches 27 and 28. With the right side of the zipper out, pin one tape inside the front, from side fold to side fold, so that the last round lies beside the teeth, and sew it with sewing thread in backstitch through the crochet and the tape, between the last round and the one below. Close the zipper, pin the other tape inside the back in the same way, open the zipper and sew it. Backstitch: bring the needle up one stitch length ahead, go down where the last stitch ended, and so on. Fasten off the thread inside.

4. Wrist loop. Fold it across its middle, without a twist, so that its two short ends lie one on the other. Lay these ends ½ in (1.5 cm) deep inside the purse at the side fold where the closed zipper has its pull, flat against the inside of the tape and of the last three rounds; the loop comes out at the corner beside the end of the zipper. With the long tail sew them down round their edges with whip stitches, the needle through both ends, the tape and the wrong side of these rounds. Take two small stitches on the spot inside and weave the end in there.

5. Tassel. Wind A 24 times round the card. Slip a 12 in (30 cm) length of A under the loops at one edge of the card and knot it tight in its middle: this is the tie. Take the loops off and cut them at the other edge. Wind another 12 in (30 cm) length of A six times round the strands, ½ in (1.5 cm) below the knot, knot its two ends together and hide them among the strands. Trim the strands level. Put both ends of the tie through the hole of the zipper pull, knot them together twice close to it and hide the ends in the tassel.

Finishing

- If a scale curls up, pin its tip down on the row below, damp it and let it dry.

In all: 2 pieces.

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