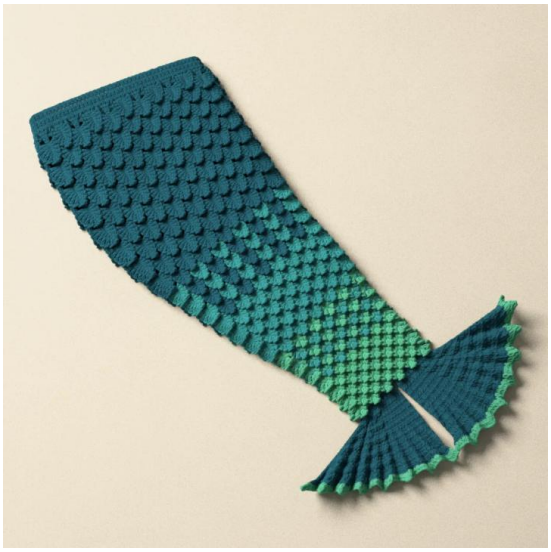
Crocodile stitch mermaid tail

Child · US terms



Finished size

About 27¾ in (70 cm) around at the hips, 28 in (71 cm) at the waistband and 14¼ in (36 cm) at the ankles, 30¾ in (78 cm) long without the fin; each fan of the fin about 7¼ in (18 cm) long

To fit ages 4 to 8, a height of 3 ft 4 in to 4 ft 2 in (102 to 127 cm)

Skill

Intermediate

Scales worked around posts, and color changes

Yarn

Medium (4), 3 colors

Hook

5.5 mm (US I-9)

Gauge

13 stitches and 13½ rows to 4 in (10 cm)

In crocodile stitch, medium scales.

What you need

Yarn A: jade, color A	**about 200 yd (183 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: sea teal, color B	**about 270 yd (247 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: deep teal, main color	**about 700 yd (640 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 590 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Hook: 5.5 mm (US I-9), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, a tape measure and a stitch marker.

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
Child (this file)	**ages 4 to 8, a height of 3 ft 4 in to 4 ft 2 in (102 to 127 cm)**	**27¾ in (70 cm) around, 28 in (71 cm)**	**about 1,170 yd (1,070 m)**
Teen	a height of 4 ft 9 in to 5 ft 3 in (145 to 160 cm)	37½ in (95 cm) around, 37¾ in (96 cm)	about 2,030 yd (1,856 m)

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Gauge

13 stitches and 13½ rows to 4 in (10 cm) in crocodile stitch, medium scales.

Check it on the tail itself when 14 rows are done, laid flat and not stretched: the 23 pairs of a row in Child are about 14¼ in (36 cm) wide, the 31 in Teen about 19 in (48 cm), and the 14 rows, which are still small scales, about 3 7/8 in (9.8 cm) tall without the scales that hang below row 1. If they measure more, start again with a smaller hook; if they measure less, with a larger one.

Notes

- For sitting or lying in while awake, with a grown-up near a child. It holds both legs: it is not for sleep, for walking or for stairs.
- The tail is one flat piece, worked from the ankles up to the waist; the scales point down to the fin. Odd rows are wrong side rows of pairs, even rows are right side rows of scales. The two long edges are sewn to each other afterward, at the back.
- A pair is two dc (in the large scales two tr) worked into one place. The first row of the waistband has three dc in a place instead. The ch 3 (or ch 4) at the start of a row of pairs counts as the first st of the first pair; in the next row it is a post like any other.
- In a row of scales, "sl st in sp before next st" goes into the gap between the two posts of a pair that has no scale: the st named just before it and the st after it are the two of that pair. Draw the yarn loosely behind the work to the next pair.
- In a row of pairs, each scale and each sl st of the row before counts as one st. To work into a scale, put the hook into the gap between the two posts the scale stands on, under their tops. To work into a sl st, put it into the gap the sl st was made in. "Same st" at the start of a row is the first scale or sl st of the row before, the one at the edge where the hook is.
- The ch 1 at the start of a row of scales, and of a row of the waistband, does not count as a stitch. The ch 2 at the start of a row of the fin does not count either: the first dc goes into the st it rises from.
- To change yarn, work the last yarn over of the last stitch of the row before with the new yarn. If the old yarn is needed again after only 2 or 4 rows of another yarn, leave it hanging at the edge and bring it loosely up the side when you need it. Otherwise cut it, 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, join the next at the end of a row: work the last yarn over of the last stitch with the new yarn, 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 strands of each chain that lie below row 1, whether or not a stitch was worked into that chain. 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.
- Buy whole balls from one dye lot.

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Instructions

Child. US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **tr** treble crochet (UK double treble), **dtr** double treble crochet (UK triple treble), **sp** space, **st** stitch.

sk skip, **yo** yarn over the hook, **RS** right side, the one that shows, **WS** wrong side, the back.

2 dc in next st: both in one stitch. **dc in each of next 22 sts**: one in each. **ch-1 sp**: the gap under the one chain; the hook goes in the gap.

[ ] 22 times: work what is inside 22 times in all.

(46 dc): the stitches you have when the row is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Special stitches

s-scale (Small scale): Worked over the two dc of one pair, with the right side facing you: 4 dc around the post of the first dc of the pair, down its whole post, the first just under its top and the last just above its foot; ch 1; turn the piece half round, so that it is upside down, and work 4 dc around the post of the second dc, from its foot up to its top; turn the piece back. The 8 dc stand out from the pair as one rounded scale that points to the foundation chain; it counts as one st. In UK terms: 4 tr down one post and 4 tr up the other.

m-scale (Medium scale): Worked over the two dc of one pair, with the right side facing you: 5 dc around the post of the first dc of the pair, down its whole post, the first just under its top and the last just above its foot; ch 1; turn the piece half round, so that it is upside down, and work 5 dc around the post of the second dc, from its foot up to its top; turn the piece back. The 10 dc stand out from the pair as one rounded scale that points to the foundation chain; it counts as one st. In UK terms: 5 tr down one post and 5 tr up the other.

l-scale (Large scale): Worked over the two tr of one pair, with the right side facing you: 6 tr around the post of the first tr of the pair, down its whole post, the first just under its top and the last just above its foot; ch 1; turn the piece half round, so that it is upside down, and work 6 tr around the post of the second tr, from its foot up to its top; turn the piece back. The 12 tr stand out from the pair as one rounded scale that points to the foundation chain; it counts as one st. In UK terms: 6 dtr down one post and 6 dtr up the other.

Tail

Yarns in order of use: A, jade; B, sea teal; C, deep teal.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 48.

Small scales

☐ **Row 1 (WS)**	Dc in 4th ch from hook (skipped chs count as dc), **[**sk next ch, 2 dc in next ch**] 22 times** (46 dc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; s-scale over next 2 sts, **[**sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, s-scale over next 2 sts**] 11 times** (12 s-scale, 11 sl sts)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, 2 dc in each of next 22 sts (46 dc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, **[**s-scale over next 2 sts, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st**] 11 times** (11 s-scale, 12 sl sts)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, 2 dc in each of next 22 sts (46 dc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn; s-scale over next 2 sts, **[**sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, s-scale over next 2 sts**] 11 times** (12 s-scale, 11 sl sts)

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☐ **Row 7**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, 2 dc in each of next 22 sts	(46 dc)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 1, turn; sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, **[**s-scale over next 2 sts, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st**] 11 times** (11 s-scale, 12 sl sts)	
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, 2 dc in each of next 22 sts	(46 dc)
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 1, turn; s-scale over next 2 sts, **[**sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, s-scale over next 2 sts**] 11 times** (12 s-scale, 11 sl sts)	
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, 2 dc in each of next 22 sts	(46 dc)
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 1, turn; sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, **[**s-scale over next 2 sts, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st**] 11 times** (11 s-scale, 12 sl sts)	
☐ **Row 13**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, 2 dc in each of next 22 sts	(46 dc)
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 1, turn; s-scale over next 2 sts, **[**sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, s-scale over next 2 sts**] 11 times** (12 s-scale, 11 sl sts)	
☐ **Row 15**	With B, ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, 2 dc in each of next 22 sts	(46 dc)
☐ **Row 16**	Ch 1, turn; sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, **[**s-scale over next 2 sts, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st**] 11 times** (11 s-scale, 12 sl sts)	
☐ **Row 17**	With A, ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, 2 dc in each of next 22 sts	(46 dc)
☐ **Rows 18 to 26**	Repeat rows 14 to 17 in order, over and over. The last row, row 26, is worked as row 14.	

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Medium scales

☐ **Row 27**	With B, ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**ch 1, 2 dc in next st**] 22 times** (46 dc, 22 ch-1 sps)	
☐ **Row 28**	Ch 1, turn; sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, **[**sk next ch-1 sp, m-scale over next 2 sts, sk next ch-1 sp, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st**] 11 times**	(11 m-scale, 12 sl sts)
☐ **Row 29**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**ch 1, 2 dc in next st**] 22 times**	(46 dc, 22 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Row 30**	Ch 1, turn; m-scale over next 2 sts, **[**sk next ch-1 sp, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, sk next ch-1 sp, m-scale over next 2 sts**] 11 times**	(12 m-scale, 11 sl sts)
☐ **Row 31**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**ch 1, 2 dc in next st**] 22 times**	(46 dc, 22 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Row 32**	Ch 1, turn; sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, **[**sk next ch-1 sp, m-scale over next 2 sts, sk next ch-1 sp, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st**] 11 times**	(11 m-scale, 12 sl sts)
☐ **Row 33**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**ch 1, 2 dc in next st**] 22 times**	(46 dc, 22 ch-1 sps)

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☐ **Row 34**	Ch 1, turn; m-scale over next 2 sts, **[**sk next ch-1 sp, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, sk next ch-1 sp, m-scale over next 2 sts**] 11 times**	(12 m-scale, 11 sl sts)
☐ **Row 35**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**ch 1, 2 dc in next st**] 22 times**	(46 dc, 22 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Row 36**	Ch 1, turn; sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, **[**sk next ch-1 sp, m-scale over next 2 sts, sk next ch-1 sp, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st**] 11 times**	(11 m-scale, 12 sl sts)
☐ **Row 37**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**ch 1, 2 dc in next st**] 22 times**	(46 dc, 22 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Row 38**	Ch 1, turn; m-scale over next 2 sts, **[**sk next ch-1 sp, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, sk next ch-1 sp, m-scale over next 2 sts**] 11 times**	(12 m-scale, 11 sl sts)
☐ **Row 39**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**ch 1, 2 dc in next st**] 22 times**	(46 dc, 22 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Row 40**	Ch 1, turn; sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, **[**sk next ch-1 sp, m-scale over next 2 sts, sk next ch-1 sp, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st**] 11 times**	(11 m-scale, 12 sl sts)
☐ **Row 41**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**ch 1, 2 dc in next st**] 22 times**	(46 dc, 22 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Row 42**	Ch 1, turn; m-scale over next 2 sts, **[**sk next ch-1 sp, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, sk next ch-1 sp, m-scale over next 2 sts**] 11 times**	(12 m-scale, 11 sl sts)
☐ **Row 43**	With C, ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**ch 1, 2 dc in next st**] 22 times**	(46 dc, 22 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Row 44**	Ch 1, turn; sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, **[**sk next ch-1 sp, m-scale over next 2 sts, sk next ch-1 sp, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st**] 11 times**	(11 m-scale, 12 sl sts)
☐ **Row 45**	With B, ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; dc in same st, **[**ch 1, 2 dc in next st**] 22 times**	(46 dc, 22 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Rows 46 to 56**	Repeat rows 42 to 45 in order, over and over. The last row, row 56, is worked as row 44.	

46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

Large scales

☐ **Row 57**	Ch 4 (counts as tr), turn; tr in same st, **[**ch 2, 2 tr in next st**] 22 times**	(46 tr, 22 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 58**	Ch 1, turn; l-scale over next 2 sts, **[**sk next ch-2 sp, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, sk next ch-2 sp, l-scale over next 2 sts**] 11 times**	(12 l-scale, 11 sl sts)
☐ **Row 59**	Ch 4 (counts as tr), turn; tr in same st, **[**ch 2, 2 tr in next st**] 22 times**	(46 tr, 22 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 60**	Ch 1, turn; sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st, **[**sk next ch-2 sp, l-scale over next 2 sts, sk next ch-2 sp, sk next st, sl st in sp before next st, sk next st**] 11 times**	(11 l-scale, 12 sl sts)

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☐ **Rows 61 to 88**	Repeat rows 57 to 60 in order, over and over. The last row, row 88, is worked as row 60.	

61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88

Waistband

☐ **Row 89**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), turn; 2 dc in same st, **[**ch 1, 3 dc in next st**] 22 times**	(69 dc, 22 ch-1 sps)
☐ **Row 90**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 3 sts, **[**sc in next ch-1 sp, sc in next 3 sts**] 22 times**	(91 sc)
☐ **Rows 91 to 94**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(91 sc)

91 92 93 94

☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Fin fan: make 2

Yarns in order of use: C, deep teal; A, jade.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 13.	

Fan

☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Dc in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across	(11 dc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**, dc in next 2 sts	(14 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 3 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**, dc in next 2 sts	(17 dc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 4 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**, dc in next 2 sts	(20 dc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**, dc in next 2 sts	(23 dc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 6 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**, dc in next 2 sts	(26 dc)
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**, dc in next 2 sts	(29 dc)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 8 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**, dc in next 2 sts	(32 dc)
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 9 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**, dc in next 2 sts	(35 dc)
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 10 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**, dc in next 2 sts	(38 dc)
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 11 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**, dc in next 2 sts	(41 dc)
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 12 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**, dc in next 2 sts	(44 dc)

Ruffle

☐ **Row 13**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next st, 2 dc in next st**] 22 times**	(66 dc)
☐ **Row 14**	With A, ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next st, 2 dc in next st**] 33 times**	(99 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Assembly

1. Weave in the ends of the tail and of the fans. Fold the tail in half with the wrong side out, so that its two long edges meet; the edges are the end posts of the rows of pairs and of the first row of the waistband, and the scale rows have no edge of their own. Put a marker through both edges at row 77, the 6th row of pairs below the waistband.

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2. Back seam: cut two lengths of C, each about 44 in (112 cm) long. With the first, begin at the marker and whip stitch the end posts of the rows of pairs to each other, two stitches to each row, toward the foundation chain; go on with the second to row 1: 39 pairs of posts, 78 stitches. Keep the scales out of the seam. Above the marker the edges stay open, with the ends of the waistband, so that the tail is easy to slip into. Take out the marker and turn the tail right side out.

3. Foot: lay the tail flat with the seam in the middle of the back. The foundation chain is now doubled. Its 45 chains, from the one that holds the first pair of row 1 to the one that holds the last, are counted from one side of the seam to the other: chains 12 to 33 in front lie on chains 11 to 1 and 45 to 35 behind, 22 pairs; chain 34, at a fold, is left over. Cut a length of C, about 28 in (71 cm), and whip stitch the 22 pairs to each other, from fold to fold, under the scales.

4. Fin: with the front of the tail up, lay the two fans below the closed foot, right sides up, their foundation chains along it: 11 chains of the first against 11 pairs on the left, 11 chains of the second against 11 pairs on the right. Cut a length of C, about 24 in (61 cm), for the first fan and whip stitch each of its chains to the pair that lies against it, 11 stitches.

5. Cut a length of C, about 24 in (61 cm), for the second fan and sew its 11 chains to the 11 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.
- Use the tail for sitting and resting, with the legs inside and the waist open. Do not walk in it.

In all: 3 pieces.

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

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