DNA double helix

US terms



Finished size
About 9½ in (24 cm) tall and 3¼ in (8.3 cm) across the base

Skill
Intermediate
13 pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Light (3), 6 colors

Hook
2.75 mm (US C-2)

Gauge
24 stitches and 26.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet, in a spiral.

What you need

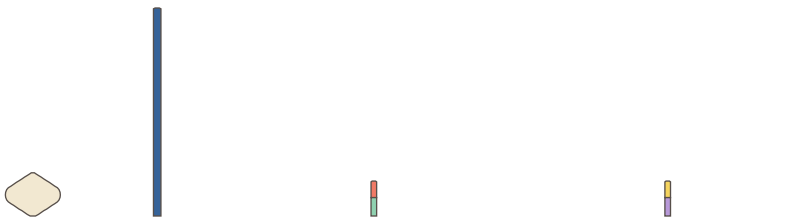
Yarn A: denim blue, strand	**about 75 yd (69 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: coral, coral and mint rung	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: mint, coral and mint rung	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: lemon, lemon and lilac rung	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: lilac, lemon and lilac rung	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: cream, base	**about 50 yd (46 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 75 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).

Hook: 2.75 mm (US C-2), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins, scissors, stiff card and a wooden dowel 3/16 in (5 mm) thick and 8 7/8 in (22.5 cm) long and its ends sanded smooth.

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



Base **Strand x 2** **Coral and mint rung x 5** **Lemon and lilac rung x 5**

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Gauge

24 stitches and 26.4 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 1 7/8 in (4.8 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 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.
- This is a model for a desk or a shelf, not a toy for a small child: there is a wooden rod in it. 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 C," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in C. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the model. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- 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. In a BLO round, use the back loops instead.
- No plastic eyes are used.
- One size, at the gauge above: 9½ in (24 cm) tall and 3¼ in (8.3 cm) across the base. A thinner or a thicker yarn with a hook to suit makes it smaller or larger; every length then changes with it.

Instructions

US terms.

sc single crochet (UK double crochet), **MR** magic ring, **Rnd** round, **st** stitch.
sc2tog 2 sc made into one. **BLO**: only the loop away from you. **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**.

Base

Yarn F, cream.

Round 1 is the middle of the base.

When round 14 is worked, lay a circle of stiff card, 3 in (7.6 cm) across, inside on rounds 1 to 10.

☐ **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)

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☐ **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 next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in BLO of each st around	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnds 12 to 14**	Sc in each st around	(60 sc)

12 13 14

☐ **Rnd 15**	Working in BLO all the way round, **[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)

Stuff firmly now, on top of the card, and keep adding stuffing until the last round, so that the top stays flat.

☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**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.	

Strand: make 2

Yarn A, denim blue.

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

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	8 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(8 sc)
☐ **Rnds 2 to 80**	Sc in each st around	(8 sc)

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 27 28 29
30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57
58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. The stuffing ends at the open edge.	

Coral and mint rung: make 5

Yarns in order of use: B, coral; C, mint.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnds 2 to 7**	Sc in each st around	(6 sc)

2 3 4 5 6 7

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☐ **Rnds 8 to 14**	With C, sc in each st around	(6 sc)
8 9 10 11 12 13 14		
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff lightly up to the open edge.	

Lemon and lilac rung: make 5

Yarns in order of use: D, lemon; E, lilac.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnds 2 to 7**	Sc in each st around	(6 sc)
2 3 4 5 6 7		
☐ **Rnds 8 to 14**	With E, sc in each st around	(6 sc)
8 9 10 11 12 13 14		
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff lightly up to the open edge.	

Assembly

1. Lay the two strands side by side on the table, their closed ends at the top, 2 1/8 in (5.4 cm) apart. On each, mark a straight line down the side that faces the other strand and put a pin in it on rounds 5, 13, 21, 29, 37, 45, 53, 61, 69 and 77. Now lay the five coral and mint rungs and the five lemon and lilac rungs between the strands like a ladder, one rung at each pair of pins. The color at the left strand, from the top down: lemon, coral, lilac, mint, coral, lilac, lemon, mint, lemon, coral; the other color of the rung is at the right strand. Sew the open edge of each rung to its strand all the way round its 6 stitches with its tail, the middle of the edge at the pin. Sew the other end, round 1, to the other strand at its pin in the same way, in a circle about ¼ in (6 mm) across, with a new length of its color.

2. Set the ladder up with its closed ends at the top. Each rung goes on the dowel through its middle, between rounds 7 and 8, where the two colors meet. Push the upper end of the dowel up from below through the lowest rung, then through the next, and so on. The ladder is longer than the dowel (along the strands the rungs are about 1¼ in (32 mm) apart): as soon as a rung is on, slide it down along the dowel toward the rung below it, to about 7/8 in (22 mm) from it, middle to middle, and let the strands bow out between them. The dowel goes right through nine rungs; in the top one it goes in from below and ends inside.

3. Hold the lowest rung and wind the ladder round the dowel like a spiral stair, counterclockwise as you look down from the top: turn each rung one tenth of a whole turn (36 degrees) past the rung under it. The strands now lie round the rungs in two smooth curves. Check that the rungs are still 7/8 in (22 mm) apart, middle to middle. About 7/8 in (22 mm) of the dowel is now free under the lowest rung.

4. Push the lower end of the dowel straight down through the closed hole of the base until it stands on the card. Slide the rungs down with it until the middle of the lowest is about 3/8 in (10 mm) above the top of the base.

5. Stand the open edge of each strand on the top of the base: its middle on round 16 (48 sts), one strand straight across from the other (24 stitches apart). The last few rounds of each strand stand upright. Sew each open edge down all the way round its 8 stitches with its tail. Turn the rungs a last time until the winding is even.

Finishing

- Weave every tail through the model and trim it.

In all: 13 pieces; 2,960 stitches (840 in the base, 640 in each strand, 84 in each coral and mint rung, 84 in each lemon and lilac rung).

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

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