Fish bag with scales

Summer · US terms



Finished size

About 13¼ in (33.5 cm) long from the mouth to the tips of the tail and 7¼ in (18.5 cm) tall laid flat without the top fin, with a zipper 5 in (12.5 cm) long and a strap about 41 in (104 cm) long between its sewn ends

Skill

Intermediate

The scales are easy shells in rounds that are not joined; the tail, fins and eyes are worked or sewn on, and there is a zipper.

Yarn

Light (3), 6 colors

Hook

3.5 mm (US E-4)

Gauge

20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: sea green, the head and the first scales	**about 55 yd (50 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: turquoise, the second scales and the edge of the tail	**about 55 yd (50 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: deep teal, the third scales, the fins and the middle of the tail	**about 75 yd (69 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: navy, the last scales, the base of the tail, the edges of the fins, the pupils and the strap	**about 105 yd (96 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: coral, the lips	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: white, the eyes	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 120 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 coral, a sewing needle and pins, 3 stitch markers, a yarn needle, scissors and a zipper 5 in (12.5 cm) long in coral.

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
Child	10¼ in (26 cm) long, 6 in (15 cm) tall	about 200 yd (183 m)
Summer (this file)	**13¼ in (33.5 cm) long, 7¼ in (18.5 cm) tall**	**about 310 yd (283 m)**

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Gauge

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

20 stitches and 11 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in double crochet, worked in the round. Ten rounds of shells add about 2¼ in (5.5 cm) to the length.

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. The gauge is checked on the piece itself: after round 14 the head should measure about 12 in (30.5 cm) around, laid flat and not stretched, measured across and doubled. If the piece measures more than that, begin again with a smaller hook; if it measures less, with a larger hook.

Notes

- Begin with a magic ring: wind the yarn once round two fingers, put the hook through the ring, draw up a loop and chain 1 to hold it, which does not count as a stitch. Work round 1 into the ring, then pull the tail to draw the ring closed. This is for the eyes and the pupils.
- The rounds of the body, the eyes and the pupils are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round. Where a round begins with a skip, the first stitch is the single crochet after the skip.
- The body begins with a ring of chains. The chain of 1 of round 1 does not count as a stitch, and the first single crochet goes into the chain that holds the slip stitch. The right side, the outside, faces you in every round.
- Shells: a shell is 5 dc in one stitch. In a first round of shells, after a plain round, the shells stand in stitches of the plain round. After that each shell stands in a single crochet, and each single crochet stands in the third, the middle one, of the 5 dc of a shell. Where one round of shells ends and the next begins, two shells or two single crochet follow each other; that is right.
- In a plain round after shells work one single crochet in each of the 5 dc and in each single crochet.
- The tail and the fins are worked in rows. The chain at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.
- To change color, draw the new yarn through as the last yarn over of the stitch before. A color that rests for one round only is carried loosely up the inside. A color that rests for more rounds than that, or is not used again, is cut, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- sc2tog: draw up a loop in each of the next 2 stitches, yarn over and pull through all 3 loops on the hook.
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug.
- Backstitch: bring the needle up one stitch length ahead, go down where the last stitch ended, and so on, with no space between the stitches.
- To sew a piece down flat: bring the needle up through the piece under the top of a stitch at its edge and down through the fabric beneath just outside the edge, one stitch for each stitch or row of the edge.
- Straight stitch: bring the needle up at one end of the stitch and put it down at the other.
- The long strap and the small parts are not for a child under three.
- Colors. Body. Rounds 1 to 2: E. Rounds 3 to 15: A. Round 16: B. Round 17: A. Round 18: B. Round 19: A. Rounds 20 to 23: B. Round 24: C. Round 25: B. Round 26: C. Round 27: B. Round 28: C. Round 29: B. Round 30: C. Round 31: D. Round 32: C. Round 33: D. Round 34: C. Rounds 35 to 38: D. Round 39: C. Round 40: D. Round 41: C. Round 42: D. Round 43: C. Rounds 44 to 57: D. Tail. Rows 1 to 2: D. Rows 3 to 4: C. Row 5: B. Top fin. Rows 1 to 3: C. Row 4: D. Side fin. Rows 1 to 3: C. Row 4: D. Eyes: F. Pupils and strap: D.

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Instructions

Summer. US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **tr** treble crochet (UK double treble), **MR** magic ring, **st** stitch, **rnd** round.
sc2tog 2 sc made into one, **sk** skip, **RS** right side, the one that shows.
2 sc in next st: both in one stitch. **sc in next 3 sts**: one in each.
[ ] 5 times: work what is inside 5 times in all.
(48 sc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Body

Yarns in order of use: E, coral; A, sea green; B, turquoise; C, deep teal; D, navy.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 48, sl st in first ch to form a ring.	

Lips

☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, sc in each ch around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)

Head

☐ **Rnd 3**	With A, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 4 sts	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	Sc in each st around	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 4 sts	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnds 6 to 14**	Sc in each st around	(60 sc)

The heavy box is where you stop and measure.

6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | **14**

> **Stop and measure now, after round 14.** The head should measure about 12 in (30.5 cm) around, measured across and doubled.

Scales

☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**Sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 10 times**	(10 sc, 50 dc)
☐ **Rnd 16**	With B, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 10 times**	(50 dc, 10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	With A, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 10 times**	(10 sc, 50 dc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	With B, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 10 times**	(50 dc, 10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 19**	With A, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 10 times**	(10 sc, 50 dc)
☐ **Rnd 20**	With B, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 10 times**	(50 dc, 10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 21**	Sc in each st around	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 12 times**	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**Sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 12 times**	(12 sc, 60 dc)

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☐ **Rnd 24**	With C, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 12 times**	(60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 25**	With B, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 12 times**	(12 sc, 60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 26**	With C, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 12 times**	(60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 27**	With B, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 12 times**	(12 sc, 60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 28**	With C, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 12 times**	(60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 29**	With B, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 12 times**	(12 sc, 60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 30**	With C, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 12 times**	(60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 31**	With D, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 12 times**	(12 sc, 60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 32**	With C, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 12 times**	(60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 33**	With D, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 12 times**	(12 sc, 60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 34**	With C, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 12 times**	(60 dc, 12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 35**	With D, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 12 times**	(12 sc, 60 dc)
☐ **Rnd 36**	Sc in each st around	(72 sc)
☐ **Rnd 37**	Sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, **[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 11 times**, sc in next 2 sts	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnd 38**	**[**Sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 10 times**	(10 sc, 50 dc)
☐ **Rnd 39**	With C, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 10 times**	(50 dc, 10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 40**	With D, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 10 times**	(10 sc, 50 dc)
☐ **Rnds 41 to 44**	Repeat rnds 39 and 40 in turn: every even-numbered rnd is worked as rnd 40, every odd-numbered rnd as rnd 39.	

41 42 43 44

Tail end

☐ **Rnd 45**	Sc in each st around	(60 sc)
☐ **Rnd 46**	**[**Sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 47**	Sc in each st around	(54 sc)
☐ **Rnd 48**	**[**Sc in next 7 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 49**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Rnd 50**	**[**Sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 51**	Sc in each st around	(42 sc)
☐ **Rnd 52**	**[**Sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 53**	Sc in each st around	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 54**	**[**Sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Rnd 55**	Sc in each st around	(30 sc)

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☐ **Rnd 56**	**[**Sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 57**	Sc in each st around	(24 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch to level the edge. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Tail

Yarns in order of use: D, navy; C, deep teal; B, turquoise.

Work it in step 3 of Assembly. Row 1 closes the body: each stitch goes through both layers, under both loops of a stitch in front and of the stitch behind it. The rows grow faster than a flat fan does, so that the tail stands in waves.

☐ **Foundation**	The last round of the body pressed flat, the 12 stitches in front on the 12 behind; 12 places.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Join D with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 11 sts	(12 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in each st across	(24 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	With C, ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next st, 2 dc in next st**] 12 times**	(36 dc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 12 times**	(48 dc)
☐ **Row 5**	With B, ch 3, turn; tr in next 8 sts, dc in next 8 sts, hdc in next 4 sts, sc in next 8 sts, hdc in next 4 sts, dc in next 8 sts, tr in next 8 sts	(16 tr, 16 dc, 8 hdc, 8 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Top fin

Yarns in order of use: C, deep teal; D, navy.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 21.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(20 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 3** 2 3	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next 4 sts, dc in next 8 sts, hdc in next 4 sts, sc in next 2 sts	(4 sc, 8 hdc, 8 dc)
☐ **Row 4**	With D, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(20 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Side fin: make 2

Yarns in order of use: C, deep teal; D, navy.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 5.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(4 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in each st across	(8 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; **[**dc in next st, 2 dc in next st**] 4 times**	(12 dc)
☐ **Row 4**	With D, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(12 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

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Eye: make 2

Yarn F, white.

☐ **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**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 24 in (61 cm) for sewing.	

Pupil: make 2

Yarn D, navy.

☐ **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**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 16 in (40.5 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Weave in the tails of the body on the inside; the starting tails of the eyes and the pupils on their wrong sides; and all the tails of the fins on their wrong sides. The long tails of the eyes and the pupils are for sewing.

2. Press the body flat, right side out, so that the middle of the beginning chain, opposite the slip stitch that closed it, is at one fold of the mouth and that slip stitch at the other: 24 stitches lie on each side of the mouth between the folds. The fold with the slip stitch is the back of the fish, the upper edge, and the other fold is the belly. Put a marker at each fold. The whole body keeps these two folds, down to the tail end.

3. The tail. Keep the body pressed flat, the last round with 12 stitches on each side, and work the tail through both layers, beginning at the belly. Weave in its tails along its own rows.

4. The eyes. Lay a pupil on each eye, both right sides up, so that their edges meet at one side, the front of the eye, and with its own tail sew it down flat. For each eye cut 10 in (25.5 cm) of F and work two straight stitches close together, ¼ in (0.5 cm) long, on the pupil at its upper front, so that the two eyes are mirror images; fasten off on the back. Lay an eye on each side of the head, the pupil toward the mouth: its middle on round 8, 8 stitches of that round from the fold of the back. With its tail sew it down flat through one layer. Fasten off on the inside.

5. The side fins. Put one on each side of the body, right side out, its short edge, the foundation chain, toward the mouth and its wide edge toward the tail: the middle of the short edge is on round 17, half way between the fold of the back and the belly fold. Cut 16 in (40.5 cm) of C for each, and whip stitch the 4 chains of the short edge to the body, through one layer, going over them twice. The rest stays free. Draw both ends of the yarn to the inside and fasten off.

6. The top fin. Its foundation chain goes along the fold of the back, over the scales: one end at round 20, the other end toward the tail. Cut 20 in (51 cm) of C and, beginning at the end toward the mouth, whip stitch the 20 chains under row 1 to the fold, the needle through the fold from one side to the other and through a chain each time. The rest of the fin stands free. Draw both ends of the yarn to the inside and fasten off.

7. The zipper is 5 in (12.5 cm) long. Fold the tape beyond each of its ends under and hold each fold with two stitches of sewing thread. Put the zipper, shut, into the mouth, its right side out, the teeth level with the edge of the lips, the

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pull at the fold of the back. Pin each side of the mouth to its tape, the lips stretched to the length of the teeth, and open the zipper. With sewing thread backstitch along the middle of the lips, between rounds 1 and 2, through the lips and the tape, first on the one side and then on the other. Fasten off on the inside.

8. The strap. Hold two strands of D together and leave tails of 6 in (15 cm) before the first chain. Chain 200; turn, slip stitch in the 2nd chain from the hook and in each chain to the end (199 slip stitches). Fasten off, leaving tails of 10 in (25.5 cm): all four tails, two short and two long, are at this end. The cord is about 42 in (106.5 cm) long. Lay the last ½ in (1.5 cm) of this end along the fold of the back, over rounds 10 to 12, the rest of the strap toward the tail, and with the two long tails held together sew it down through both edges of the cord, going round it six times. The other end has no tails: cut two pieces of D, each 12 in (30.5 cm) long, and with them held together sew it along the fold in the same way over the last 3 rounds of the body, the rest of the strap toward the mouth; see that the strap is not twisted. At both ends of the strap draw all the tails to the inside and fasten off. Take the markers out.

9. Weave in all the tails that are left on the inside.

Finishing

- Wet the tail and the fins. Spread the fins flat, pull the waves of the tail even with your fingers, and let all dry.

In all: 8 pieces; 3,824 stitches (3,312 in the body, 168 in the tail, 80 in the top fin, 36 in each side fin, 60 in each eye, 36 in each pupil).

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

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