Fish bone cat toy

US terms



Finished size
About 8½ in (21.5 cm) long and 4½ in (11.5 cm) across the longest ribs

Skill
Intermediate
14 pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Medium (4), 3 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: charcoal, head, tail fin and the details	**about 50 yd (46 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: white, several of the pieces	**about 60 yd (55 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: teal, head	**about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**

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

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.

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, through the front loops only: how is under “Before you start” (UK dc2tog, double cro
MR	magic ring
RS	right side
Rnd	round
st	stitch

Gauge

20 stitches and 22 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 2¼ in (5.5 cm) across. The stitches should be tight enough that the stuffing does not show.

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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.

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 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.
- Center line: places on a piece are given by round and by stitches from a center line. It is half way round from where the rounds begin. Mark it with a pin or a scrap of yarn as listed here, run it straight from round 1 to the last round by eye, and count out from it along the round, in stitches and half stitches.
- Head: the center line runs between stitches 20 and 21 of round 10 (40 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.
- Spine: the center line runs between stitches 5 and 6 of round 4 (10 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the back end.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the fish. 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.
- 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, the size written here: 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): 6¼ in (16 cm) long and 3 3/8 in (8.6 cm) across the longest ribs; multiply lengths by 0.74; about 0.74 times the yarn.
- Large: bulky (5, chunky) yarn, 5 mm (H-8) hook, 14 sc and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 12¼ in (31 cm) long and 6½ in (16.5 cm) across the longest ribs; 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): 15½ in (39.5 cm) long and 8¼ in (21 cm) across the longest ribs; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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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.

Head

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

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(22 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts	**(26 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(34 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts	**(38 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 18 sts**] 2 times**	**(40 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 11 to 12**	Sc in each st around	**(40 sc)**

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

☐ 11 ☐ 12

☐ **Rnds 13 to 14**	With C, sc in each st around	**(40 sc)**

A box for each round, 13 to 14: tick them off as you go.

☐ 13 ☐ 14

☐ **Rnd 15**	With A, **[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 4 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

Stuff firmly now, with a spoonful of dried catnip in the middle if you like, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**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. Shape the stuffed piece with your fingers into an oval, about 3 1/8 in (7.9 cm) wide and 1 7/8 in (4.8 cm) tall at its widest.	

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Spine

Yarn B, white.

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

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 5 to 29**	Sc in each st around	**(10 sc)**

A box for each round, 5 to 29: tick them off as you go.

☐ 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

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing.	

Longest rib: make 2

Yarn B, white.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 3 to 12**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**

A box for each round, 3 to 12: tick them off as you go.

☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

Long rib: make 2

Yarn B, white.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 3 to 10**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**

A box for each round, 3 to 10: tick them off as you go.

☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

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Short rib: make 2

Yarn B, white.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 3 to 8**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**

A box for each round, 3 to 8: tick them off as you go.

3 4 5 6 7 8

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

Shortest rib: make 2

Yarn B, white.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 3 to 6**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**

A box for each round, 3 to 6: tick them off as you go.

3 4 5 6

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

Tail fin: make 2

Yarn A, charcoal.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 7 to 8**	Sc in each st around	**(14 sc)**

A box for each round, 7 to 8: tick them off as you go.

7 8

☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**

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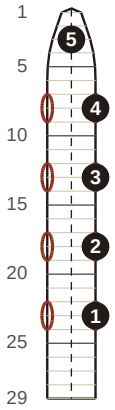
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 4 stitches.	

Eye: make 2

Yarn B, white.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat with the right side up.	

Assembly



Spine: 1 longest ribs, 2 long ribs, 3 short ribs, 4 shortest ribs, 5 tail fins

Each line is a round, counted as the rounds are worked. The upright broken line is the center line. A place with a broken edge is on the far side.

1. Lay one eye flat on the head, right side out, the middle of it on round 8, on the center line. Sew down all 12 stitches of the edge.

2. Lay one eye flat on the head, right side out, the middle of it on round 8, on the line opposite the center line. Sew down all 12 stitches of the edge.

3. Pin the spine to the head: the middle of the open edge lies over the closed hole at the end of the head. The edge (10 sts) lies all the way round on about round 19. It points back. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

4. Pin the two longest ribs to the spine: the middle of each open edge lies on round 23, one to each side, 2½ stitches from the center line (5 stitches apart). The edge (6 sts) covers about rounds 22 to 24 of the spine. They point straight out to the side, then curve evenly toward the tail until the tip of each points half to the side and half back. Bend each as you pin it and hold the curve with a stitch or two on the side toward the tail. Sew all the way round with the tail.

5. Pin the two long ribs to the spine: the middle of each open edge lies on round 18, one to each side, 2½ stitches from the center line (5 stitches apart). The edge (6 sts) covers about rounds 17 to 19 of the spine. They point straight out to the side, then curve evenly toward the tail until the tip of each points half to the side and half back. Bend each as you pin it and hold the curve with a stitch or two on the side toward the tail. Sew all the way round with the tail.

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6. Pin the two short ribs to the spine: the middle of each open edge lies on round 13, one to each side, 2½ stitches from the center line (5 stitches apart). The edge (6 sts) covers about rounds 12 to 14 of the spine. They point straight out to the side, then curve evenly toward the tail until the tip of each points half to the side and half back. Bend each as you pin it and hold the curve with a stitch or two on the side toward the tail. Sew all the way round with the tail.

7. Pin the two shortest ribs to the spine: the middle of each open edge lies on round 8, one to each side, 2½ stitches from the center line (5 stitches apart). The edge (6 sts) covers about rounds 7 to 9 of the spine. They point straight out to the side, then curve evenly toward the tail until the tip of each points half to the side and half back. Bend each as you pin it and hold the curve with a stitch or two on the side toward the tail. Sew all the way round with the tail.

8. Pin the two tail fins to the spine: the middle of each flat edge lies on round 3, one to each side, 2 stitches from the center line (4 stitches apart). The flat edge (4 stitches) runs lengthwise along the side of the spine, from round 1 to round 5. They point out to the side and back, one to each side, so that the end of the spine lies in the fork between them. Sew through both layers of the 4-stitch edge with its tail of yarn.

Finishing

- Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle when the pieces round the place are sewn on; 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.
- Pupils: with A (charcoal), in satin stitch, a round dot about 5/16 in (8 mm) across in the middle of each eye.
- Mouth: with B (white), in backstitch, a curved line on the top of the head, with the nose (round 1) toward you: from round 2, ½ stitch left of the center line; through round 3, 2 stitches left of it, and round 5, 3½ stitches left of it; to round 6, 4 stitches left of it. Turn the head over and work the second half on the other side in the same way: from the line opposite the center line, by the same rounds and stitches, toward the same edge of the fish.
- Weave every tail through the toy and trim it. For a toy that will be played with, go round each seam a second time with a new length of yarn. Check the seams and small parts from time to time.

In all: 14 pieces; 1,478 stitches (524 in the head, 278 in the spine, 70 in each longest rib, 58 in each long rib, 46 in each short rib, 34 in each shortest rib, 112 in each tail fin, 18 in each eye).

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

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