Fish ornament

US terms



Finished size
About 4¾ in (12 cm) long and 4¾ in (12 cm) tall with the fins, without the hanging loop

Skill
Intermediate
Worked in rows and rounds, with 8 pieces and color changes.

Yarn
Fine (2), 5 colors

Hook
3.25 mm (US D-3)

Gauge
21 stitches and 22 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: deep teal, rows 1 to 6, 9, 12 and 15 to 17 of the fishs	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: turquoise, rows 7, 10, 13 and 18 of the fishs and row 1 of the fins	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: seafoam, rows 8, 11, 14 and 19 of the fishs and row 2 of the fins	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: cream, the eyes	**about 2 yd (2 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: coral, the side fins	**about 4 yd (4 m), an estimate**

Hook: 3.25 mm (US D-3), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking and a spray bottle.

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 and chains 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.

ch	chain stitch
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
hdc	half double crochet (UK htr, half treble)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
tr	treble crochet (UK dtr, double treble)
sk	skip (UK miss)
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side

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Gauge

21 stitches and 22 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

Rows 7 to 12, in shells, measure about 1 5/8 in (4.1 cm) together.

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

- Rounds are worked with the right side facing; do not turn.
- Where a line says turn, turn the piece over and work back along the stitches just made.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work the first round or row into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed. Four chains joined into a ring with a slip stitch may be used instead.
- A chain that counts as a stitch is marked so in its line and is included in the count.
- A chain 1 at the start of a round or a row does not count as a stitch.
- Fasten off the old color, then join the new one with a slip stitch in the place named; the first stitch or chain of the line is worked in that same place.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches are not counted.
- The fish is worked from the nose to the tail. Odd-numbered rows are worked with the right side facing.
- A shell is 5 dc in one st. From Row 8 to Row 14 the sc between two shells goes in the middle one of the 5 dc of a shell, and a shell goes in a sc. Rows 9 and 11 begin and end with 3 dc, half a shell; the first and the last sc of the row after it go in the outermost of these dc.
- In Rows 13 and 14 the row begins in the middle dc of the first shell of the row below and ends in the middle dc of its last shell, so that 3 sts are left free at each end.
- A fin begins and ends with a sc. The sc that Row 1 begins with is the end that lies toward the nose; the two tr are the highest place.
- The side fin is a half circle of one row: do not join. Row 1 is worked with the right side facing.
- The distances under FINISHING are for the yarn and gauge above; in another yarn make them larger or smaller in the same proportion as the size.
- French knot (sewn): bring the yarn needle up from the back, wrap the yarn twice round the needle close to the surface, hold the wraps and put the needle down beside the place where it came up. For a large knot use the yarn double and wrap it three times.
- Whip stitch: hold the two edges together, put the needle through both from back to front, bring the yarn over the edges and go in again from the back, one stitch along.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured the longest way: lace yarn (0) and a 1.75 mm hook, about 3 in (8 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 5½ in (14 cm); medium yarn (4) and a 5 mm hook, about 7¼ in (18 cm).

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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 row is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, hdc is half treble, dc is treble and tr is double treble.

Fish: make 2

Yarns in order of use: A, deep teal; B, turquoise; C, seafoam.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 6.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc in next 4 chs	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 3 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 3 sc in next st	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(13 sc)**
☐ **Rows 5 to 6**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(13 sc)**

A box for each row, 5 to 6: tick them off as you go.

☐ 5 ☐ 6

Fasten off A.

☐ **Row 7**	Turn, join B with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, [sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st] twice	**(3 sc, 10 dc)**

Fasten off B.

☐ **Row 8**	Turn, join C with sl st in first st, ch 3 (counts as dc), 4 dc in same st, [sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st] twice	**(15 dc, 2 sc)**

Fasten off C.

☐ **Row 9**	Turn, join A with sl st in first st, ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, sk next st, sc in next st, [sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st] twice, sk next st, 3 dc in next st	**(16 dc, 3 sc)**

Fasten off A.

☐ **Row 10**	Turn, join B with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(4 sc, 15 dc)**

Fasten off B.

☐ **Row 11**	Turn, join C with sl st in first st, ch 3 (counts as dc), 2 dc in same st, [sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st] twice, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 3 dc in next st	**(16 dc, 3 sc)**

Fasten off C.

☐ **Row 12**	Turn, join A with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(4 sc, 15 dc)**

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Fasten off A.

☐ **Row 13**	Turn, sk next 3 sts, join B with sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in same st, [sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st] twice, leave the remaining 3 sts unworked	**(3 sc, 10 dc)**

Fasten off B.

☐ **Row 14**	Turn, sk next 3 sts, join C with sl st in next st, ch 1, sc in same st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, leave the remaining 3 sts unworked	**(2 sc, 5 dc)**

Fasten off C.

☐ **Row 15**	Turn, join A with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in same st, sc in next 6 sts	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 16**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 17**	Turn, ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in same st, **[**dc in next st, 2 dc in next st**] 3 times**	**(11 dc)**

Fasten off A.

☐ **Row 18**	Turn, join B with sl st in first st, ch 4 (counts as tr), tr in same st, 2 tr in next st, 2 dc in next st, hdc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, hdc in next st, 2 dc in next st, 2 tr in each of next 2 sts	**(8 tr, 4 dc, 2 hdc, 3 sc)**

Fasten off B.

☐ **Row 19**	Turn, join C with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in each st across	**(17 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Fin: make 2

Yarns in order of use: B, turquoise; C, seafoam.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 10.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next 2 chs, dc in next 2 chs, tr in next 2 chs, dc in next ch, sc in next ch	**(2 sc, 2 hdc, 3 dc, 2 tr)**

Fasten off B.

☐ **Row 2**	Turn, join C with sl st in first st, ch 1, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing.	

Side fin: make 2

Yarn E, coral.

☐ **Foundation**	With E, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 7 dc in ring	**(8 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing.	

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Eye: make 2

Yarn D, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	With D, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 6 sc in ring, sl st in first sc to join	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing.	

Finishing

- Block: pin the two fish to the same shape, with the nose rounded, the widest place at Rows 10 and 11 and the two lobes of the tail spread. Pin out the fins and the side fins. Spray the pieces with water and let them dry.
- Lay both fish down, right sides up, one with its nose to the left and the other with its nose to the right: these are the two sides of the ornament. The middle line of a fish runs from the middle of its foundation chain, at the nose, to the notch of the tail.
- Eyes: sew an eye to each fish with its tail, right side up, its magic ring 5/8 in (1.6 cm) from the foundation chain and ½ in (1.3 cm) above the middle line. With A, work a large French knot on its magic ring.
- Side fins: lay a side fin on each fish, right side up, its magic ring 1½ in (3.8 cm) from the foundation chain and ¼ in (0.6 cm) below the middle line, and its fan of dc toward the tail. Sew it down with its tail at the magic ring and along the first dc and the last dc; the edge of the fan hangs free.
- Lay the two fish one on the other, wrong sides together, nose on nose. Fins: slip the foundation chain of one fin between the layers at the upper edge and the foundation chain of the other at the lower edge, 1/8 in (0.3 cm) deep, so that they reach from the end of Row 5 to the end of Row 11, the sc that Row 1 begins with toward the nose. One fin shows its right side and the other its wrong side. Pin them, and sew each with its tail to the wrong side of the back fish.
- Edge: work sl st through both layers, and through a fin where it lies between them. With A and the nose to the left, join at the end of Row 16 at the upper edge, beside the tail, and go along the upper edge to the nose: 1 sl st in the end of each of Rows 16, 15 and 14, 1 in each of the 3 sts that Row 14 left free, 1 in the end of Row 13, 1 in each of the 3 sts that Row 13 left free, 1 in the end of Row 12, 2 in the end of Row 11, 1 in the end of Row 10, 2 in the end of Row 9, 2 in the end of Row 8 and 1 in the end of each of Rows 7 to 1 (25 sl sts). Work 1 sl st in each of the 5 chains of the nose, and go back along the lower edge in the same way, from Row 1 to Row 16 (55 sl sts in all). Fasten off. If you are left-handed, hold the fish with the nose to the right.
- Tail: with a 30 in (76 cm) length of C, sew the edges of the two tails together in whip stitch, one stitch through each of the 17 sc of Row 19 of both: bring the needle from the back to the front, carry the yarn over the edge and go to the next pair. Sew the ends of Rows 17 to 19 at each side in the same way.
- Hanging loop: join E with a sl st in the 3rd sc of Row 2 of the upper fin, counted from the tail end, ch 14 (about 2¼ in (5.7 cm) of chain), sl st in the same st and fasten off.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 8 pieces; 562 stitches (249 in each fish, 18 in each fin, 8 in each side fin, 6 in each eye).

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