Swimming shark

US terms



Finished size

About 7¾ in (19.5 cm) long, 4¾ in (12 cm) across the side fins and 4½ in (11.5 cm) tall with the back fin

Skill

Intermediate

Seven pieces worked in rounds and rows 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: slate gray, the main color	**about 125 yd (114 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: white, belly patch and the details	**about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: charcoal, the details	**about 5 yd (5 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 and two black plastic eyes with washers, 10 mm.

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
ch	chain stitch
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 that has rounds 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.
- Sides: a piece in rows is put on with the side that faced you in row 1 (marked RS) outward, unless the words say something else.
- 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.
- 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.
- Body: the center line runs between stitches 21 and 22 of round 14 (42 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the toy. 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.
- For a child under three, or a pet, embroider the eyes instead: satin stitch dots of the same size in C (charcoal).
- 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): 5¾ in (14.5 cm) long, 3½ in (8.9 cm) across the side fins and 3 3/8 in (8.6 cm) tall with the back fin; eyes 7 mm; 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): 11 in (28 cm) long, 6¾ in (17 cm) across the side fins and 6½ in (16.5 cm) tall with the back fin; eyes 14 mm; 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): 14 in (35.5 cm) long, 8¾ in (22 cm) across the side fins and 8¼ in (21 cm) tall with the back fin; eyes 18 mm; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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.

Body

Yarn A, slate gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(9 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	**(21 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 3 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(27 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts**] 3 times**	**(33 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts**] 2 times**	**(38 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 18 sts**] 2 times**	**(40 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**sc in next 19 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 15 to 23**	Sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**

A box for each round, 15 to 23: tick them off as you go.

☐ 15 ☐ 16 ☐ 17 ☐ 18 ☐ 19 ☐ 20 ☐ 21 ☐ 22 ☐ 23

☐ **Rnd 24**	**[**sc in next 9 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 10 sts**] 2 times**	**(40 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 18 sts**] 2 times**	**(38 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 26**	**[**sc in next 17 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 27**	**[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 8 sts**] 2 times**	**(34 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 28**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 15 sts**] 2 times**	**(32 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 29**	**[**sc in next 14 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 30**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts**] 2 times**	**(28 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 31**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 12 sts**] 2 times**	**(26 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 32**	**[**sc in next 11 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 33**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**	**(22 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 34**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 9 sts**] 2 times**	**(20 sc)**

Fix the eyes now (see Finishing). Then stuff firmly, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 35**	**[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 36**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 37**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 38**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**

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☐ **Rnds 39 to 40**	Sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**

A box for each round, 39 to 40: tick them off as you go.

39 40

☐ **Rnd 41**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 42**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 8 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside.	

Belly patch

Yarn B, white.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 4 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 5.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 12 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rows 9 to 10**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(16 sc)**

A box for each row, 9 to 10: tick them off as you go.

9 10

☐ **Row 11**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 14 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rows 12 to 22**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(18 sc)**

A box for each row, 12 to 22: tick them off as you go.

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

☐ **Row 23**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc in next 14 sts, sc2tog	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Row 24**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Row 25**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc in next 12 sts, sc2tog	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Row 26**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Row 27**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc in next 10 sts, sc2tog	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Row 28**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Row 29**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Row 30**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog	**(6 sc)**

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☐ **Row 31**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog	**(4 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 44 in (112 cm) tail for sewing. Row 1 is the front end, toward the nose; the last row is the back end.	

Back fin

Yarn A, slate gray.

☐ **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)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**	**(20 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 9 sts**] 2 times**	**(22 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 20 in (51 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff very lightly. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 11 stitches.	

Side fin: make 2

Yarn A, slate gray.

☐ **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)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 18 in (46 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 9 stitches.	

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Upper tail fin

Yarn A, slate gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts	**(17 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 16 sts	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in next 16 sts, sc2tog	**(17 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in next 7 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 8 sts	**(16 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 8 stitches.	

Lower tail fin

Yarn A, slate gray.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts	**(14 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 7 stitches.	

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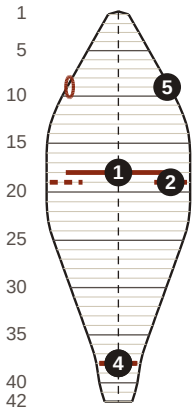
Assembly



Body: 1 back fin, 2 side fins, 3 upper tail fin, 4 lower tail fin, 5 eyes

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 the belly patch on the underside of the body, right side out, row 1 toward the nose, the middle of every row on the line opposite the center line. Each row lies over one round of the body: row 1 over round 3, row 2 over round 4, and so on, to row 31 over round 33. Each stitch of the patch covers one stitch of the body, so half of every row lies to each side of the line: on round 9, for example, the 14 stitches of row 7 reach 7 stitches to each side, and the eyes, higher up, stay free. Pin the side edges in a smooth curve and sew the patch down all the way round with its tail.

2. Pin the back fin to the body: the middle of the flat edge lies on round 18, on the center line. The flat edge runs lengthwise along the body, half of it before that place and half behind. It points up, then curves until its tip points up and back. Bend it as you pin it and hold the curve with a stitch or two on its inner side. Sew through both layers of the 11-stitch edge with the tail.

3. Pin the two side fins to the body: the middle of each flat edge lies on round 19, one to each side, 13 stitches from the center line (16 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). The flat edge runs lengthwise along the body, half of it before that place and half behind. They point out to the side and down, then curve until the tip of each points back and down. Bend each as you pin it and hold the curve with a stitch or two on its inner side. Sew through both layers of the 9-stitch edge with the tail.

4. Pin the upper tail fin to the body: the middle of the flat edge lies on round 38, on the center line. The flat edge runs lengthwise along the body, half of it before that place and half behind. It points up and back, then curves until its tip points straight back. Bend it as you pin it and hold the curve with a stitch or two on its inner side. Sew through both layers of the 8-stitch edge with its tail of yarn.

5. Pin the lower tail fin to the body: the middle of the flat edge lies on round 38, on the line opposite the center line. The flat edge runs lengthwise along the body, half of it before that place and half behind. It points down and back. Sew through both layers of the 7-stitch edge with its tail of yarn.

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Finishing

- Put in the plastic eyes when the words of a piece say so, or embroider eyes in the same places with the other details. Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle when the pieces round the place are sewn on, unless a line gives another time; 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.
- Belly edge: with B (white), in backstitch, one line on the body all the way round the belly patch, close against its edge, so that the edge looks smooth. Work it as soon as the patch is sewn down, before the side fins are put on.
- Eyes: two 10 mm black plastic eyes, on the body on round 9, one to each side, 6 stitches from the center line (12 stitches apart).
- Gills: with C (charcoal), five lines on each side of the body, one on each of rounds 14 to 18: in backstitch along the round, from 7 stitches to 10 stitches from the center line.
- Mouth: with C (charcoal), in backstitch, one long curve across the belly patch, from one side to the other. Mark its places with pins first, each counted from the middle of its row of the patch: on row 10, 7 stitches to one side; on row 9, 5½ stitches; on row 7, 4½ stitches; on row 5, 3½ stitches; on row 4, 2½ stitches; on row 3, in the middle; and from there back through the same places on the other side, to row 10. Work the line through the pins.
- 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: 7 pieces; 2,182 stitches (1,161 in the body, 430 in the belly patch, 130 in the back fin, 106 in each side fin, 161 in the upper tail fin, 88 in the lower tail fin).

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

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