Mermaid top with scales, halter neck

M, to fit bust 37 in (94 cm) · US terms



Finished size
About 18 in (45.5 cm) at the front across its lower edge and about 7¾ in (19.5 cm) at the neck edge across
To fit a bust of 37 in (94 cm)

Skill
Intermediate
Double crochet worked around posts, simple shaping, picked-up edges

Yarn
Light (3), 3 colors

Hook
4.5 mm (US 7)

Gauge
16 stitches and 18½ rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet (UK double crochet).

What you need

Yarn A: teal, main color	**about 180 yd (165 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: seafoam, contrast	**about 55 yd (50 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: lilac, color 3	**about 60 yd (55 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 120 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).

Hook: 4.5 mm (US 7), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: yarn needle, scissors, tape measure, about ½ yd (0.5 m) of stretch swimsuit lining at least 56 in (142 cm) wide (enough for every size), sewing thread and a sewing needle, pins and 5 pearl beads (6 beads for L to 3X), ¼ in (6 mm) across.

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.

Sizes

Size	Bust	Yarn, an estimate	Front across its lower edge	Neck edge across	Front high	Side edges of the front high	Each half of the back long	Lower edge	Back ends high, without the edging
XS	29 in (73.5 cm)	about 220 yd (201 m)	15 in (38 cm)	7¾ in (19.5 cm)	8½ in (21.5 cm)	4 in (10 cm)	5¼ in (13.5 cm)	25½ in (65 cm)	3 in (7.5 cm)
S	33 in (84 cm)	about 260 yd (238 m)	16½ in (42 cm)	7¾ in (19.5 cm)	9 in (23 cm)	4 in (10 cm)	6½ in (16.5 cm)	29½ in (75 cm)	3 in (7.5 cm)
M (this file)	**37 in (94 cm)**	**about 295 yd (270 m)**	**18 in (45.5 cm)**	**7¾ in (19.5 cm)**	**9¾ in (25 cm)**	**4 in (10 cm)**	**7¾ in (19.5 cm)**	**33½ in (85 cm)**	**3 in (7.5 cm)**

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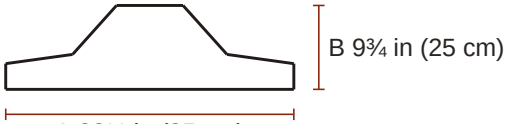
L	41 in (104 cm)	about 355 yd (325 m)	21 in (53.5 cm)	9¼ in (23.5 cm)	10½ in (26.5 cm)	4 in (10 cm)	8¼ in (21 cm)	37½ in (95 cm)	3 in (7.5 cm)
1X	45 in (114.5 cm)	about 395 yd (361 m)	22½ in (57 cm)	9¼ in (23.5 cm)	11¼ in (28.5 cm)	4 in (10 cm)	9½ in (24 cm)	41½ in (105.5 cm)	3 in (7.5 cm)
2X	49 in (124.5 cm)	about 445 yd (407 m)	24 in (61 cm)	9¼ in (23.5 cm)	11¾ in (30 cm)	4 in (10 cm)	10¾ in (27.5 cm)	45½ in (115.5 cm)	3 in (7.5 cm)
3X	53 in (134.5 cm)	about 490 yd (448 m)	27 in (68.5 cm)	9¼ in (23.5 cm)	13¼ in (33.5 cm)	4 in (10 cm)	11¼ in (28.5 cm)	49½ in (125.5 cm)	3 in (7.5 cm)

Schematic



Front with the two halves of the back
A the whole width
B how deep the neck is

Gauge

16 stitches and 18½ rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

> **The swatch.** A test piece to measure and pull out. It is not the start of the pattern. Ch 25; begin in the 2nd ch from the hook and work 28 rows of single crochet on 24 sts, about 6 in (15 cm) wide and 6 in (15 cm) high, and measure 4 in (10 cm) in the middle. Use a larger hook if your swatch is small, a smaller one if it is large. Scales: 2 Vs with the dc between them, which are 12 sts of the lower edge, are about 3 in (7.5 cm) wide; 4 rows (two rows of Vs and two rows of scales) are about 1 3/8 in (3.5 cm) high, measured on the wrong side.

Notes

- Women's sizes, by the bust. Choose the cotton smooth and not heavy: a scale takes about as much yarn as ten dc.
- The top goes around the body but for a gap of about 3½ in (9 cm), at each size, at the middle of the back, which the ties close as far as you like. No fit is promised beyond the measurements given.
- The turning chain (ch 1 for single crochet, ch 2 for double crochet) never counts as a stitch. Work the first stitch of every row into the first stitch, at the base of the turning chain.
- The ch that is skipped at the start of row 1 is never counted, and nothing is worked into it later.
- A decrease counts as one stitch. A scale counts as one stitch.
- The front is worked from its lower edge up. Rows of Vs are wrong side rows and rows of scales are right side rows. A V is (dc, ch 2, dc) in one st. The scales of one row lie between those of the row before, as on a fish.
- In the narrowed rows the first and the last sc of the row below stay unworked, and so there is one scale less in every row of scales.
- Left and right are those of the person who wears the top.

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- Lining: when the arm edges are edged, lay the whole top flat with the wrong side up on stretch swimsuit lining, the greater stretch of the lining from side to side, and cut the lining in one piece, ½ in (1.5 cm) larger all around than the top without its arm edgings. Turn ¾ in (2 cm) of it under at the lower edge, at the two back ends and at the neck edge, toward the crochet, so that the fold lies about ¼ in (0.5 cm) in from these edges, and ½ in (1.5 cm) at the arm edges, so that the fold lies along row 1 of the edgings; pin it to the wrong side. Where an edge curves inward, snip the part that is turned under so that it lies flat. Sew the fold down with small slanting stitches of sewing thread that do not show on the right side, and stretch the piece a little as you sew. Without a lining the rows of Vs show what is under them.
- Cotton takes up water: wet, it grows heavier and longer and it dries slowly. This top is for wearing on land; a splash does no harm.
- Color changes in rows: work the last yarn over of the last stitch of the row before with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn, leaving an end of about 6 in (15 cm), or, if it is needed again at the same edge within 6 rows and that edge is straight, carry it loosely up the edge.

Instructions

M, to fit bust 37 in (94 cm). US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **st** stitch, **sp** space.
RS right side, the one that shows.
ch-2 sp: the gap under two chains; the hook goes in the gap.
[ ] 12 times: work what is inside 12 times in all. **( )**: all of it goes into the one place.
(73 sc): the stitches you have when the row is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Special stitches

sc2tog (single crochet 2 stitches together (UK double crochet 2 together)): Insert the hook in the next stitch and pull up a loop, insert the hook in the following stitch and pull up a loop (3 loops on the hook); yarn over and pull through all 3 loops.

scale (a scale of 10 dc, worked around the two legs of a V): It is worked on a right side row around the two legs of one V, which is (dc, ch 2, dc) in one st of the row below. Turn the work so that the first leg lies across in front of you, and work 5 dc around the post of that dc, from its top down to its foot; ch 1; then work 5 dc around the post of the second dc, from its foot up to its top. Nothing is worked into the tops of the two legs or into the ch-2 space now. The scale lies over the rows below with its round edge down. It counts as one stitch. To work a dc into a scale in the next row, put the hook, from the wrong side, into the ch-2 space of the V behind the scale.

Front

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn A, ch 74. Colors: rows 1 to 9 yarn A; rows 10 and 11 yarn B; rows 12 and 13 yarn A; rows 14 to 17 yarn B; rows 18 and 19 yarn C; rows 20 and 21 yarn B; rows 22 to 30 yarn C.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(73 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 3** 2 3	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(73 sc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**skip next 2 sts, (dc, ch 2, dc) in next st, skip next 2 sts, dc in next st**] 12 times** (37 dc, 12 ch-2 sps)	

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☐ **Row 5 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**scale around next V, sc in next st**] 12 times**	(13 sc, 12 scales)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**dc in next scale, (dc, ch 2, dc) in next st**] 11 times**, dc in next scale, dc in last st	(36 dc, 11 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 7 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next 2 sts, **[**scale around next V, sc in next st**] 11 times**, sc in next st	(14 sc, 11 scales)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**(dc, ch 2, dc) in next st, dc in next scale**] 11 times**, (dc, ch 2, dc) in next st, dc in last st	(37 dc, 12 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Rows 9 to 12** 9 10 11 12	Repeat Rows 5 to 8, once more	(37 dc, 12 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 13 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**scale around next V, sc in next st**] 12 times**	(13 sc, 12 scales)
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 2, turn; skip next st, dc in next scale, **[**(dc, ch 2, dc) in next st, dc in next scale**] 11 times**, leave the last st unworked	(34 dc, 11 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 15 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**scale around next V, sc in next st**] 11 times**	(12 sc, 11 scales)
☐ **Row 16**	Ch 2, turn; skip next st, dc in next scale, **[**(dc, ch 2, dc) in next st, dc in next scale**] 10 times**, leave the last st unworked	(31 dc, 10 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 17 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**scale around next V, sc in next st**] 10 times**	(11 sc, 10 scales)
☐ **Row 18**	Ch 2, turn; skip next st, dc in next scale, **[**(dc, ch 2, dc) in next st, dc in next scale**] 9 times**, leave the last st unworked	(28 dc, 9 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 19 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**scale around next V, sc in next st**] 9 times**	(10 sc, 9 scales)
☐ **Row 20**	Ch 2, turn; skip next st, dc in next scale, **[**(dc, ch 2, dc) in next st, dc in next scale**] 8 times**, leave the last st unworked	(25 dc, 8 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 21 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**scale around next V, sc in next st**] 8 times**	(9 sc, 8 scales)
☐ **Row 22**	Ch 2, turn; skip next st, dc in next scale, **[**(dc, ch 2, dc) in next st, dc in next scale**] 7 times**, leave the last st unworked	(22 dc, 7 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 23 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**scale around next V, sc in next st**] 7 times**	(8 sc, 7 scales)
☐ **Row 24**	Ch 2, turn; skip next st, dc in next scale, **[**(dc, ch 2, dc) in next st, dc in next scale**] 6 times**, leave the last st unworked	(19 dc, 6 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 25 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**scale around next V, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(7 sc, 6 scales)
☐ **Row 26**	Ch 2, turn; skip next st, dc in next scale, **[**(dc, ch 2, dc) in next st, dc in next scale**] 5 times**, leave the last st unworked	(16 dc, 5 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 27 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**scale around next V, sc in next st**] 5 times**	(6 sc, 5 scales)

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☐ **Row 28**	Ch 2, turn; dc in first st, **[**ch 2, dc in next scale, ch 2, dc in next st**] 5 times**	(11 dc, 10 ch-2 sps)
☐ **Row 29 (RS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in first st, **[**2 sc in next ch-2 sp, sc in next st**] 10 times**	(31 sc)
☐ **Row 30**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(31 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off. The straight side edges are the ends of rows 1 to 13, the slanted arm edges the ends of rows 14 to 27; rows 28 to 30 are the neck edge.	

Left half of the back, as worn

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	Hold the front with the right side facing and its left side edge, as worn, uppermost, so that the foundation chain is at your right. Join yarn A in the end of row 1 of the front; ch 1, then in order: along rows 1 to 3 of the front, sc in the end of each of the next 3 rows (3 sc); along rows 4 to 13 of the front, [2 sc in the end of the next row, sc in the end of the next row] 5 times (15 sc). There are 18 sc in all. This is row 1, a right side row.	
☐ **Rows 2 to 4** 2 3 4	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(18 sc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across to last 2 sts, sc2tog	(17 sc)
☐ **Rows 6 to 10** 6 7 8 9 10	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(17 sc)
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across to last 2 sts, sc2tog	(16 sc)
☐ **Rows 12 to 31** 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Repeat Rows 2 to 11, 2 more times (14, 12 sc at the ends of the repeats)	(12 sc)
☐ **Rows 32 to 36** 32 33 34 35 36	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(12 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off. The lower edge of this half is straight; the ends of the right side rows are its upper edge, where it is shaped.	

Right half of the back, as worn

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	Hold the front with the right side facing and its right side edge, as worn, uppermost, so that the foundation chain is at your left. Join yarn A in the end of row 13 of the front; ch 1, then in order: along rows 4 to 13 of the front, met from the last of them, [sc in the end of the next row, 2 sc in the end of the next row] 5 times (15 sc); along rows 1 to 3 of the front, met from the last of them, sc in the end of each of the next 3 rows (3 sc). There are 18 sc in all. This is row 1, a right side row.	
☐ **Rows 2 to 4** 2 3 4	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(18 sc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in each st across	(17 sc)

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☐ **Rows 6 to 10** 6 7 8 9 10	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(17 sc)
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in each st across	(16 sc)
☐ **Rows 12 to 31** 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Repeat Rows 2 to 11, 2 more times (14, 12 sc at the ends of the repeats)	(12 sc)
☐ **Rows 32 to 36** 32 33 34 35 36	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(12 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off. The lower edge of this half is straight; the beginnings of the right side rows are its upper edge, where it is shaped.	

Edging of the right arm edge, as worn

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	Hold the top with the right side facing and its right arm edge, as worn, uppermost: the neck edge is at your right and the end of the right half of the back at your left. Join yarn A in the end of row 30 of the front, at the neck; ch 1, then in order: along rows 28 to 30 of the front, met from the last of them, sc in the end of each of the next 2 rows, 2 sc in the end of the next row (4 sc); along rows 14 to 27 of the front, met from the last of them, [sc in the end of the next row, 3 sc in the end of the next row] 7 times (28 sc); along rows 1 to 36 of the right half of the back, sc in the end of each of the next 2 rows, [skip the end of the next row, sc in the end of each of the next 5 rows] 5 times, skip the end of the next row, sc in the end of each of the next 3 rows (30 sc). There are 62 sc in all. This is row 1, a right side row.	
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(62 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Edging of the left arm edge, as worn

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	Hold the top with the right side facing and its left arm edge, as worn, uppermost: the end of the left half of the back is at your right and the neck edge at your left. Join yarn A in the end of row 36 of the left half of the back, at its upper edge; ch 1, then in order: along rows 1 to 36 of the left half of the back, met from the last of them, sc in the end of each of the next 3 rows, [skip the end of the next row, sc in the end of each of the next 5 rows] 5 times, skip the end of the next row, sc in the end of each of the next 2 rows (30 sc); along rows 14 to 27 of the front, [3 sc in the end of the next row, sc in the end of the next row] 7 times (28 sc); along rows 28 to 30 of the front, 2 sc in the end of the next row, sc in the end of each of the next 2 rows (4 sc). There are 62 sc in all. This is row 1, a right side row.	
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(62 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off. Line the top now (see NOTES): the lining as it is cut is about 34½ in (87.5 cm) wide and 10¾ in (27.5 cm) long, measured at its widest and at its longest.	

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Neck tie: make 2

Yarn C, lilac.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn C, ch 102.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sl st in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(101 sl sts)
☐ **End**	Each neck tie is about 22 in (56 cm) long (the slip stitches draw the chain in). Fasten off, leaving an end of about 8 in (20 cm) for sewing.	

Back tie: make 4

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn A, ch 65.	
☐ **Row 1**	Sl st in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(64 sl sts)
☐ **End**	Each back tie is about 14 in (35.5 cm) long (the slip stitches draw the chain in). Fasten off, leaving an end of about 8 in (20 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Neck ties: sew the end of a neck tie that has the long yarn end to the wrong side of each end of row 30 of the front, behind its first st and behind its last st, with that yarn end.

2. Back ties: row 36 of each half of the back has 12 sts. Sew a back tie to the wrong side of row 36, behind the 2nd st from its upper edge and another behind the 2nd st from its lower edge, each by the end that has the long yarn end and with that yarn end.

3. Beads: row 29 of the front is the right side row of sc at the neck edge and has 31 sts. With sewing thread sew one bead to the right side of row 29 over the middle of each scale of row 27: over st 4 and then over every 6th st after it, to st 28 (5 beads). Go through each bead three times and knot the thread on the wrong side. The beads are small parts: leave them off a top for a child.

4. To wear it, tie the neck ties in a bow behind the neck, and the two upper back ties and the two lower back ties in bows behind the back.

Finishing

- Weave in all the ends. Wash as the yarn label says, in a bag for delicate things, pull every scale straight and lay the top flat to the measurements to dry.

In all: 7 pieces.

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

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