Mermaid tail purse

Kids · US terms



Finished size

About 5½ in (14 cm) wide at the opening and 9½ in (24 cm) long with the fin, with about 27 in (68.5 cm) of strap between its sewn ends

Skill

Intermediate

It has one special stitch, the scale, worked round the posts of the stitches below.

Yarn

Light (3), 5 colors

Hook

4 mm (US G-6)

Gauge

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

In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: deep teal, the fin and the lowest scales	**about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: turquoise, scales, the shells of the flap	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: sea blue, scales	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: lilac, scales	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: violet, the top scales, the flap and the strap	**about 95 yd (87 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 4 mm (US G-6), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a round pearl button ½ in (1.5 cm) across, sewing thread in white, a sewing needle and pins, a yarn needle and scissors.

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
Kids (this file)	**5½ in (14 cm) wide, 9½ in (24 cm) long**	**about 190 yd (174 m)**
Grown-up	6½ in (16.5 cm) wide, 12¼ in (31 cm) long	about 280 yd (256 m)

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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)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together (UK dc2tog)
BLO	back loop only
st	stitch
sp	space
sk	skip (UK miss)
rnd	round
RS	right side
WS	wrong side

Special stitches

pair: 2 dc in the place named. A pair counts as 1 stitch.

scale: Worked on the right side, in front of the pair named, round the posts of its two dc. Every dc of a scale is worked with the hook under the whole post, as under a bar. Turn the purse a quarter, so that the narrow end is at your left (at your right if you work left-handed), and work 5 dc round the post of the first dc of the pair, the first of them at its top and the last at its foot. Turn the purse half round, so that the narrow end is at the other hand, and work 5 dc round the post of the second dc, the first at its foot and the last at its top. Turn the purse upright again. The 10 dc stand out to both sides of the pair as one rounded scale, its tip toward the narrow end. A scale counts as 1 stitch.

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. A scale row, its round of pairs and its round of scales together, is about ½ in (1.5 cm) tall; the scales themselves are longer and hang over the row below. The fin, ridged by its back loops, and the flap need not be measured.

> **The swatch.** A test piece to measure and pull out. It is not the start of the pattern. Work a swatch in A before you begin: ch 31; row 1, sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across (30 sc); rows 2 to 12, ch 1, turn, sc in each st across (30 sc). Lay it flat and count the stitches over 4 in (10 cm) in its middle. There should be 20 stitches; rows worked back and forth are not quite as tall as rounds, so go by the stitches. If you count more stitches than that, change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, change to a smaller hook. The swatch can be pulled out and its yarn used again.
>
> | | | |
> |---|---|---|
> | **Swatch foundation** | Ch 31. | |
> | **Swatch row 1 (RS)** | Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across | **(30 sc)** |
> | **Swatch rows 2 to 12** | Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across | **(30 sc)** |

Before you start

- Each round of the tail is joined with a slip stitch and all of them are worked with the right side facing; never turn. The chain at the start of a round does not count as a stitch: work the first stitch of the round into the first place of the round below, the one the round below was joined in. A round of pairs is joined in the top of the first dc of its first pair, and a round of scales in the top of its first sc, or of the first dc of its first scale.

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- Into a pair or a scale: where the pattern says to work a stitch into a pair, put the hook between the two dc of that pair, at their tops. A scale hangs in front of its pair, so a stitch worked into a scale goes into the same place: between the two dc of the pair behind it.
- How the scales lie: each is worked on every second pair, with one sc in the pair between, which holds it down. In the next scale row the scales come on the other pairs, so that each lies over the gap between two of the row below.
- To widen the tail, three pairs are worked into one place, first at the one side fold and then at the other. That adds one scale.
- Where the pattern says BLO, put the hook under the back loop only. The fin is turned at every row, so the front loops left free make ridges on both sides of it. Each sc2tog is worked through both loops.
- The chain of 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch. In the flap and the fin the first stitch goes into the last stitch of the row before.
- To change color where a joined round begins, draw the new yarn through as the last yarn over of the slip stitch that ends the round before. The flap is worked in rows: draw B through as the last yarn over of the last sc of its last row in E. Cut the old yarn at each change, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- Whip stitch: put the needle through both edges from back to front, one stitch for each stitch or row, and draw the yarn snug.
- The kids size has a small button and a strap: it is for a child of five years or older.
- For a longer strap begin with 20 more chains for every 4 in (10 cm). Every row then has 20 more stitches, and it takes about 2 yd (2 m) more of E.
- Colors of the tail, round by round. Rounds 1 to 5: A. Rounds 6 to 9: B. Rounds 10 to 13: C. Rounds 14 to 17: D. Rounds 18 to 28: E. The fin is A. The flap is E with its last two rows in B. The strap is E.

Instructions

Chosen: Kids. Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. Round brackets ( ) inside a line hold stitches that all go into one place. 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 sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet, dc is treble, sc2tog is dc2tog and sk is miss.

Tail

Yarns in order of use: A, deep teal; B, turquoise; C, sea blue; D, lilac; E, violet.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 18, sl st in first ch to form a ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, sc in each ch around, sl st in first sc to join	**(18 sc)**
Scale row 1		
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1, sk next 2 sts**] 6 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(6 pairs, 6 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 3 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(3 sc, 3 scales)**
Scale row 2		
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 6 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(6 pairs, 6 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, **[**scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 3 times**, sl st in first scale to join	**(3 scales, 3 sc)**
Scale row 3		
☐ **Rnd 6**	With B, ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 6 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(6 pairs, 6 ch-1 sps)**

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☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 3 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(3 sc, 3 scales)**

Scale row 4

☐ **Rnd 8**	Ch 2, (pair, ch 1, pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 5 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(8 pairs, 8 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Ch 1, **[**scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 4 times**, sl st in first scale to join	**(4 scales, 4 sc)**

Scale row 5

☐ **Rnd 10**	With C, ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 8 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(8 pairs, 8 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 4 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(4 sc, 4 scales)**

Scale row 6

☐ **Rnd 12**	Ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 4 times**, (pair, ch 1, pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 3 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(10 pairs, 10 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	Ch 1, **[**scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 5 times**, sl st in first scale to join	**(5 scales, 5 sc)**

Scale row 7

☐ **Rnd 14**	With D, ch 2, (pair, ch 1, pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 9 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(12 pairs, 12 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(6 sc, 6 scales)**

Scale row 8

☐ **Rnd 16**	Ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 6 times**, (pair, ch 1, pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 5 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(14 pairs, 14 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	Ch 1, **[**scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 7 times**, sl st in first scale to join	**(7 scales, 7 sc)**

Scale row 9

☐ **Rnd 18**	With E, ch 2, (pair, ch 1, pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 13 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(16 pairs, 16 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 8 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(8 sc, 8 scales)**

Scale row 10

☐ **Rnd 20**	Ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 16 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(16 pairs, 16 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 21**	Ch 1, **[**scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 8 times**, sl st in first scale to join	**(8 scales, 8 sc)**

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Scale row 11

☐ **Rnd 22**	Ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 8 times**, (pair, ch 1, pair, ch 1, pair) in next st, ch 1, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 7 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(18 pairs, 18 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 23**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 9 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(9 sc, 9 scales)**

Scale row 12

☐ **Rnd 24**	Ch 2, **[**pair in next st, ch 1**] 18 times**, sl st in first pair to join	**(18 pairs, 18 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 25**	Ch 1, **[**scale in next st, sk next ch-1 sp, sc in next st, sk next ch-1 sp**] 9 times**, sl st in first scale to join	**(9 scales, 9 sc)**

Top

☐ **Rnd 26**	Ch 1, 3 sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 27 to 28**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(54 sc)**

A box for each round, 27 to 28: tick them off as you go.

27 28

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Flap

Yarns in order of use: E, violet; B, turquoise.

Lay the tail flat with the place where the rounds are joined at one side fold: 27 stitches of the last round are on the front and 27 on the back. With the back up and the opening away from you, join E with a slip stitch in the 2nd stitch from the side fold at your right, and work the first sc into the same stitch. 25 stitches are worked; 1 stitch of the back is left at each side.

☐ **Foundation**	The last round of the back of the tail, RS facing; 25 stitches.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, sc in each st across	**(25 sc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 10**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(25 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 10: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

☐ **Row 11**	With B, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(25 sc)**
☐ **Row 12 (WS)**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next st, **[**sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(5 sc, 20 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Half of the fin: make 2

Yarn A, deep teal.

The first stitch of row 1 is at the narrow end, the foot of the fin; the last is at its tip. All the increases and decreases are at the tip.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 8.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in BLO of next st, sc in BLO of next 6 sts	**(8 sc)**

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☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of next 7 sts, 2 sc in BLO of next st	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in BLO of next st, sc in BLO of next 8 sts	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of next 9 sts, 2 sc in BLO of next st	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in BLO of next st, sc in BLO of next 10 sts	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Row 7**	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of next 11 sts, 2 sc in BLO of next st	**(13 sc)**
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in BLO of next st, sc in BLO of next 12 sts	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of next 13 sts, 2 sc in BLO of next st	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 1, turn; 2 sc in BLO of next st, sc in BLO of next 14 sts	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of next 14 sts, sc2tog	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in BLO of next 13 sts	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Row 13**	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of next 12 sts, sc2tog	**(13 sc)**
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in BLO of next 11 sts	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Row 15**	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of next 10 sts, sc2tog	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Row 16**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in BLO of next 9 sts	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Row 17**	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of next 8 sts, sc2tog	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Row 18**	Ch 1, turn; sc2tog, sc in BLO of next 7 sts	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Row 19**	Ch 1, turn; sc in BLO of next 6 sts, sc2tog	**(7 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 20 in (51 cm).	

Strap

Yarn E, violet.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 141.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(140 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(140 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 12 in (30 cm) to sew one end. To sew the other end, cut a new length of the same yarn, also 12 in (30 cm).	

Assembly

1. Weave in all the tails on the wrong side but the long tail of each half of the fin and the tail of the strap. Smooth every scale down so that its tip points to the narrow end.

2. Gather each half of the fin: its long tail hangs at the tip. Run it along the edge of the last row to the foot, then run it in and out through the ends of all its 19 rows along the foot, the straight edge, and draw it up until that edge is about ¾ in (2 cm) wide. Take two small stitches on the spot.

3. Flatten the narrow end of the tail, so that the place where the rounds are joined is at one side: 9 chains of the foundation lie on the front and 9 on the back. Slip the gathered feet of the two halves of the fin in between, side by side, each ½ in (1.5 cm) deep, their tips pointing away from the tail and outward to the two sides, like a V, so that the two tips are about 3½ in (9 cm) apart. Pin them.

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4. With the long tail of one half of the fin whip stitch the narrow end shut, through the front, the foot of the fin and the back: 9 stitches, one in each pair of chains. Go back along the same edge with the other long tail, the stitches between those of the first. Fasten off and draw both ends into the tail. The lowest scales hang down over the seam.

5. Button, with the tail right side out: fold the flap down over the front. The single crochet between the two middle shells is the middle of the edge. With sewing thread sew the pearl button to the middle of the front, its middle ¼ in (0.5 cm) below that stitch.

6. Button loop: join B with a slip stitch on the wrong side of the flap, in the edge stitch between the two middle shells, ch 7, and slip stitch in the same place. Fasten off and weave both tails in on the wrong side of the flap. The loop goes over the button.

7. The strap is about 28 in (71 cm) long. Lay the last ½ in (1.5 cm) of one end inside the opening at a side fold, flat on the wrong side of the three rounds of the top, rounds 26 to 28, so that it ends where the scales begin and the rest of the strap comes out over the edge of the opening. Whip stitch round its edges with the tail of the strap, the needle through these three rounds only, and fasten off on the inside. Sew the other end inside the other side fold in the same way with the new length. See that the strap is not twisted.

Finishing

- If a scale curls up, pin its tip down on the row below, damp it and let it dry. Lay the fin flat, spread it, damp it and let it dry too.

In all: 4 pieces.

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

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