Newborn mermaid tail

Newborn · US terms



Finished size
About 15 in (38 cm) at the waist and about 17 in (43 cm) long

Skill
Intermediate
Rounds with front loops left free, shells worked into them, and a forked fin in rows

Yarn
Light (3), 3 colors

Hook
4.5 mm (US 7)

Gauge
16 stitches and 13½ rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In half double crochet (UK half treble).

What you need

Yarn A: teal, main color	**about 275 yd (251 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: aqua, contrast	**about 180 yd (165 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: lilac, the tail, the fin, the first lobe and more	**about 185 yd (169 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 260 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 and tape measure.

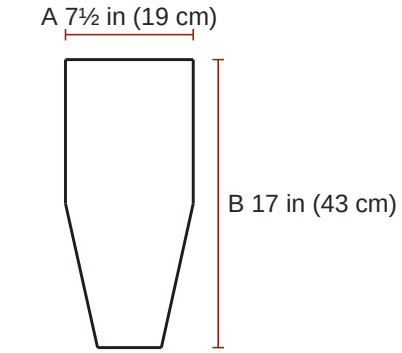
To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge.

Sizes

Size	Yarn, an estimate	Waist	Length from the waist to the closed end	Across the closed end	Fin across	Fin long	Headband around, relaxed	Headband wide
Newborn (this file)	**about 640 yd (585 m)**	**15 in (38 cm)**	**17 in (43 cm)**	**3¾ in (9.5 cm)**	**12¾ in (32.5 cm)**	**6¼ in (16 cm)**	**12¼ in (31 cm)**	**1¼ in (3 cm)**
0 to 3 months	about 775 yd (709 m)	16½ in (42 cm)	18¾ in (47.5 cm)	4½ in (11.5 cm)	13½ in (34.5 cm)	6¼ in (16 cm)	13¾ in (35 cm)	1¼ in (3 cm)

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Schematic



Tail, laid flat
A half the waist
B the length from the waist to the closed end

Gauge

16 stitches and 13½ rows to 4 in (10 cm) in half double 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 20 rows of half double 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. Double crochet (UK: treble): about 8.5 rows to 4 in (10 cm); the rounds of front and back post stitches of the waistband: about 10. Headband (single crochet in back loops only): 16 sts and 17 rows to 4 in (10 cm), and it stretches.

Notes

- Two sizes, chosen by the length.
- No fit is promised beyond the measurements given. The waistband stretches. Choose by the distance around the baby at the waist and by the length from there to the feet, with room to kick.
- The rounds are not turned; the right side always faces you. The chain at the start of a round never counts as a stitch: work the first stitch of the round into the stitch at its base, where the round was joined. In the rows of the fin, the headband and the shell the turning chain never counts as a stitch either: work the first stitch of the row into the first stitch.
- Where a round is worked in back loops only, the front loops of the round before it stay free on the right side. The scales are worked into those free loops when the tail and its fin are done. Each round of scales starts 3 stitches away from the one before it, so that the scales lie between one another, like tiles.
- A decrease counts as one stitch.
- A tail of this kind is for a baby who is awake and watched all the time, as for a picture taken with someone close by. It is not for sleep, for a car seat or for carrying.
- 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.
- Color changes in rounds: work the sl st that joins the round before with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn, leaving an end of about 6 in (15 cm), or, if it is needed again within 6 rnds, carry it loosely up the inside at the join.

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- In back loop only: insert the hook under the loop of the stitch that is farther from you, and leave the nearer loop free.
- Around the waist 15 in (38 cm).

Instructions

Newborn. US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **tr** treble crochet (UK double treble), **Rnd** round, **st** stitch.

RS right side, the one that shows.

3 dc in next st: all in one stitch. **hdc in next 8 sts**: one in each.

[ ] 30 times: work what is inside 30 times in all. **( )**: all of it goes into the one place.

(60 dc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Special stitches

hdc2tog (half double crochet 2 stitches together (UK half treble 2 together)): [yarn over, insert the hook in the next stitch and pull up a loop] twice (5 loops on the hook); yarn over and pull through all 5 loops.

dc2tog (double crochet 2 stitches together (UK treble 2 together)): [yarn over, insert the hook in the next stitch and pull up a loop, yarn over and pull through 2 loops] twice (3 loops on the hook); yarn over and pull through all 3 loops.

fpdc (front post double crochet (UK front post treble)): Yarn over, insert the hook from the front to the back and to the front again around the post of the stitch named, pull up a loop, [yarn over and pull through 2 loops] twice. The front is the side that faces you. A post stitch takes the place of the stitch it is worked around: do not work into the top of that stitch as well.

bpdc (back post double crochet (UK back post treble)): As fpdc, but insert the hook from the back to the front and to the back again around the post.

Tail

Yarn C, lilac.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn C, ch 60; join with sl st in first ch to form a ring, taking care not to twist the chain. Colors: rnds 1 to 5 yarn C; rnds 6 to 23 yarn A; rnds 24 to 39 yarn B; rnds 40 to 55 yarn C.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 2; dc in each ch around; join with sl st in first dc	(60 dc)
☐ **Rnds 2 to 5**	Ch 2; **[**fpdc around next st, bpdc around next st**] 30 times**; join with sl st in first fpdc	(30 fpdcs, 30 bpdcs)
2 3 4 5		
☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 1; hdc in each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(60 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 1; hdc in back loop only of each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(60 hdc)
☐ **Rnds 8 to 23**	Repeat Rnds 6 and 7, 8 more times	(60 hdc)
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23		
☐ **Rnd 24**	Ch 1; **[**hdc in next 8 sts, hdc2tog**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first hdc	(54 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 25**	Ch 1; hdc in back loop only of each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(54 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 26**	Ch 1; hdc in each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(54 hdc)

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☐ **Rnds 27 to 30** 27 28 29 30	Repeat Rnds 25 and 26, 2 more times	(54 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 31**	Ch 1; hdc in back loop only of each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(54 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 32**	Ch 1; **[**hdc in next 7 sts, hdc2tog**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first hdc	(48 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 33**	Ch 1; hdc in back loop only of each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(48 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 34**	Ch 1; hdc in each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(48 hdc)
☐ **Rnds 35 to 38** 35 36 37 38	Repeat Rnds 33 and 34, 2 more times	(48 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 39**	Ch 1; hdc in back loop only of each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(48 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 40**	Ch 1; **[**hdc in next 6 sts, hdc2tog**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first hdc	(42 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 41**	Ch 1; hdc in back loop only of each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(42 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 42**	Ch 1; hdc in each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(42 hdc)
☐ **Rnds 43 to 46** 43 44 45 46	Repeat Rnds 41 and 42, 2 more times	(42 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 47**	Ch 1; hdc in back loop only of each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(42 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 48**	Ch 1; **[**hdc in next 5 sts, hdc2tog**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first hdc	(36 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 49**	Ch 1; hdc in back loop only of each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(36 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 50**	Ch 1; hdc in each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(36 hdc)
☐ **Rnds 51 to 52** 51 52	Repeat Rnds 49 and 50, once more	(36 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 53**	Ch 1; hdc in back loop only of each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(36 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 54**	Ch 1; **[**hdc in next 4 sts, hdc2tog**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first hdc	(30 hdc)
☐ **Rnd 55**	Ch 1; hdc in each st around; join with sl st in first hdc	(30 hdc)
☐ **End**	Do not fasten off.	

Fin

Yarn C, lilac.

☐ **Foundation**	Go on from rnd 55 of the tail. Lay the tail flat, right side out, with the waistband toward you and the last round away from you, the joins of the rounds at the right-hand fold: sts 1 to 15 of rnd 55 then lie in front, from right to left, and sts 16 to 30 lie behind them (st 30 behind st 1, st 16 behind st 15). With yarn C, ch 1; working through both layers at once, sc in each of the 15 pairs of sts (15 sc). This closes the end of the tail. This is row 1, a right side row.	
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; 3 dc in first st, dc in next 13 sts, 3 dc in last st	(19 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 2, turn; 3 dc in first st, dc in next 17 sts, 3 dc in last st	(23 dc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 2, turn; 3 dc in first st, dc in next 21 sts, 3 dc in last st	(27 dc)

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☐ **Row 5**	Ch 2, turn; 3 dc in first st, dc in next 25 sts, 3 dc in last st	(31 dc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 2, turn; 3 dc in first st, dc in next 29 sts, 3 dc in last st	(35 dc)
☐ **End**	Do not fasten off.	

First lobe

Yarn C, lilac.

☐ **Foundation**	Go on from row 6 of the fin. The outer edge of this lobe is at the beginning of row 7, the notch of the fin at its end. Colors: rows 7 to 9 yarn C; rows 10 to 12 yarn B; rows 13 and 14 yarn A.	
☐ **Row 7 (RS)**	Ch 2, turn; 3 dc in first st, dc in next 10 sts, dc2tog 3 times, leave the last 18 sts unworked	(16 dc)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 2, turn; dc2tog 3 times, dc in next 9 sts, 3 dc in last st	(15 dc)
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 2, turn; 3 dc in first st, dc in next 8 sts, dc2tog 3 times	(14 dc)
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 2, turn; dc2tog 3 times, dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in last st	(12 dc)
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in first st, dc in next 5 sts, dc2tog 3 times	(10 dc)
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 2, turn; dc2tog 3 times, dc in next 4 sts	(7 dc)
☐ **Row 13**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next st, dc2tog 3 times	(4 dc)
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 2, turn; dc2tog twice	(2 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Second lobe

Yarn C, lilac.

☐ **Foundation**	With the right side facing, skip the next unworked st of row 6 of the fin, for the notch, and join yarn C in the next st. The notch is at the beginning of row 7 of this lobe, its outer edge at the end; its first st is the st of the join. Colors: rows 7 to 9 yarn C; rows 10 to 12 yarn B; rows 13 and 14 yarn A.	
☐ **Row 7 (RS)**	Ch 2; dc2tog 3 times, dc in next 10 sts, 3 dc in last st	(16 dc)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 2, turn; 3 dc in first st, dc in next 9 sts, dc2tog 3 times	(15 dc)
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 2, turn; dc2tog 3 times, dc in next 8 sts, 3 dc in last st	(14 dc)
☐ **Row 10**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in first st, dc in next 7 sts, dc2tog 3 times	(12 dc)
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 2, turn; dc2tog 3 times, dc in next 5 sts, 2 dc in last st	(10 dc)
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 2, turn; dc in next 4 sts, dc2tog 3 times	(7 dc)
☐ **Row 13**	Ch 2, turn; dc2tog 3 times, dc in next st	(4 dc)
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 2, turn; dc2tog twice	(2 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

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Scales one: make 9, one on each of rnds 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 of the tail

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	These scales are worked into the 60 free front loops of each of the rnds named above. With the right side facing and the waistband toward you, on rnds 6, 10, 14, 18 and 22 join yarn A in the free front loop of the first st of the rnd and on rnds 8, 12, 16 and 20 join it in the free front loop of the 4th st. That loop gets the first sc; each st named in the round is one of these front loops.
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, skip next 2 sts, (2 dc, 3 tr, 2 dc) in next st, skip next 2 sts**] 10 times**; join with sl st in first sc (10 sc, 40 dc, 30 tr)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.

Scales two: make 4, one on each of rnds 24, 26, 28 and 30 of the tail

Yarn B, aqua.

☐ **Foundation**	These scales are worked into the 54 free front loops of each of the rnds named above. With the right side facing and the waistband toward you, on rnds 26 and 30 join yarn B in the free front loop of the first st of the rnd and on rnds 24 and 28 join it in the free front loop of the 4th st. That loop gets the first sc; each st named in the round is one of these front loops.
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, skip next 2 sts, (2 dc, 3 tr, 2 dc) in next st, skip next 2 sts**] 9 times**; join with sl st in first sc (9 sc, 36 dc, 27 tr)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.

Scales three: make 4, one on each of rnds 32, 34, 36 and 38 of the tail

Yarn B, aqua.

☐ **Foundation**	These scales are worked into the 48 free front loops of each of the rnds named above. With the right side facing and the waistband toward you, on rnds 34 and 38 join yarn B in the free front loop of the first st of the rnd and on rnds 32 and 36 join it in the free front loop of the 4th st. That loop gets the first sc; each st named in the round is one of these front loops.
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, skip next 2 sts, (2 dc, 3 tr, 2 dc) in next st, skip next 2 sts**] 8 times**; join with sl st in first sc (8 sc, 32 dc, 24 tr)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.

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Scales four: make 4, one on each of rnds 40, 42, 44 and 46 of the tail

Yarn C, lilac.

☐ **Foundation**	These scales are worked into the 42 free front loops of each of the rnds named above. With the right side facing and the waistband toward you, on rnds 42 and 46 join yarn C in the free front loop of the first st of the rnd and on rnds 40 and 44 join it in the free front loop of the 4th st. That loop gets the first sc; each st named in the round is one of these front loops.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, skip next 2 sts, (2 dc, 3 tr, 2 dc) in next st, skip next 2 sts**] 7 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(7 sc, 28 dc, 21 tr)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Scales five: make 3, one on each of rnds 48, 50 and 52 of the tail

Yarn C, lilac.

☐ **Foundation**	These scales are worked into the 36 free front loops of each of the rnds named above. With the right side facing and the waistband toward you, on rnd 50 join yarn C in the free front loop of the first st of the rnd and on rnds 48 and 52 join it in the free front loop of the 4th st. That loop gets the first sc; each st named in the round is one of these front loops.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Ch 1; **[**sc in next st, skip next 2 sts, (2 dc, 3 tr, 2 dc) in next st, skip next 2 sts**] 6 times**; join with sl st in first sc	(6 sc, 24 dc, 18 tr)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Headband

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn A, ch 6.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(5 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 52**	Ch 1, turn; sc in back loop only of each st across	(5 sc)

2 3 4 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
30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an end of about 8 in (20 cm). Sew the last row to the foundation chain, 5 sts to 5 chs, without twisting the band.	

Shell

Yarn C, lilac.

☐ **Foundation**	With yarn C, ch 4; join with sl st in first ch to form a ring.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Ch 2; 7 dc in ring	(7 dc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 2, turn; 2 dc in each of next 6 sts, dc in next st	(13 dc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; sc in next st, **[**3 dc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(7 sc, 18 dc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an end of about 16 in (40 cm) for sewing.	

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Assembly

1. Fin edging: With the right side facing and the waistband toward you, join yarn A in the end of row 1 of the fin, at its right-hand edge. Ch 1; up the outer edge of the first lobe, sc in the end of row 1, 3 sc in the end of each of the next 8 rows, 2 sc in the end of each of the next 5 rows (35 sc); at the tip, 2 sc in each of the 2 sts of row 14 (4 sc); down the inner edge to the notch, [4 sc in the end of the next row, 3 sc in the end of the next row] 4 times (28 sc); sc in the st left unworked between the two lobes (1 sc); up the inner edge of the second lobe, [4 sc in the end of the next row, 3 sc in the end of the next row] 4 times (28 sc); at the tip, 2 sc in each of the 2 sts of row 14 (4 sc); down the outer edge, 2 sc in the end of each of the next 5 rows, 3 sc in the end of each of the next 8 rows, sc in the end of row 1 (35 sc; 135 sc in all). Fasten off. This is the only row.

2. Shell: with yarn A work 5 straight stitches on the right side of the shell, spread like rays: each begins at the ring, and they end at the tops of sts 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 of row 2. Lay the headband doubled and flat, right side out, with its seam at the middle of the upper layer, and lay the shell on it, right side up, with its ring at the bottom and its scallops pointing up: the middle of its straight edge lies on the seam, and the whole straight edge lies level, 1/8 in (3 mm) above the lower long edge of the band. The scallops stand above the upper long edge of the band. With the end of the shell, and through the upper layer of the band alone, sew the straight edge down from one end to the other; then sew the shell to the upper long edge of the band, from where that edge comes out under the shell on one side to where it comes out on the other. The scallops above the band stay free.

Finishing

- Weave in the ends of the tail on the inside, through the waist, and the ends of the fin on its wrong side.
- Weave in all the other ends. Wash as the yarn label says and lay flat to the measurements to dry.

In all: 3 pieces.

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

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