Pufferfish

US terms



Finished size
About 6¼ in (16 cm) across the fins, 5½ in (14 cm) from front to back and 4½ in (11.5 cm) tall

Skill
Easy
29 pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Medium (4), 6 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.

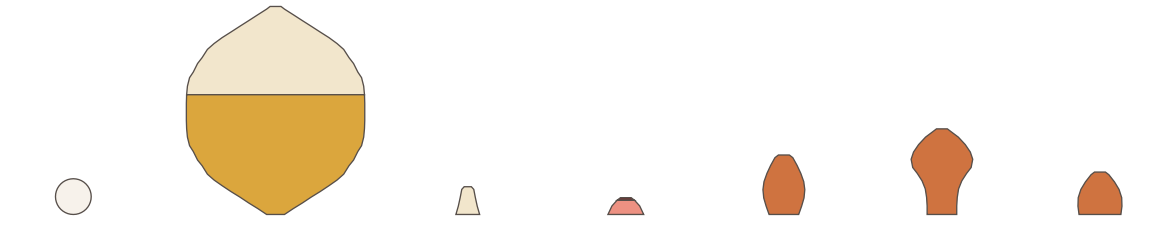
You will need

Yarn A: cream, body and spike	**about 85 yd (78 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: mustard, body	**about 50 yd (46 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: burnt orange, side fin, tail fin and top fin	**about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: white, eye white	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: maroon, mouth	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: coral pink, mouth and 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, 12 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.

The pieces



Eye white x 2
to the body

Body

Spike x 21
to the body

Mouth
to the body

Side fin x 2
to the body

Tail fin
to the body

Top fin
to the body

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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 crochet 2 stitches together)
MR	magic ring
RS	right side
Rnd	round
st	stitch
yo	yarn over (UK yrh, yarn round hook)

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.

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 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.
- 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.
- Color change: where a line begins "With B," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in B. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- 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 30 and 31 of round 12 (60 sts). It faces the front.
- 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 black yarn (about 2 yd (2 m), 2 m, not in the list above).
- 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): 4¾ in (12 cm) across the fins, 4 in (10 cm) from front to back and 3 3/8 in (8.6 cm) tall; eyes 9 mm; multiply lengths by 0.74; about 0.74 times the yarn.

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- Large: bulky (5, chunky) yarn, 5 mm (H-8) hook, 14 sc and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 9 in (23 cm) across the fins, 7¾ in (19.5 cm) from front to back and 6½ in (16.5 cm) tall; eyes 17 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): 11¼ in (28.5 cm) across the fins, 10 in (25.5 cm) from front to back and 8¼ in (21 cm) tall; eyes 22 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.

Eye white: make 2

Yarn D, white.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat with the right side up.	

Body

Yarns in order of use: A, cream; B, mustard.

Round 1 is the middle of the base.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in each st around	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in each st around	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**	**(60 sc)**

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 30 and 31 of round 12. It faces the front.

☐ **Rnds 13 to 14**	Sc in each st around	**(60 sc)**

A box for each round, 13 to 14: tick them off as you go.

13 14

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☐ **Rnds 15 to 20**	With B, sc in each st around	**(60 sc)**

A box for each round, 15 to 20: tick them off as you go.

15 16 17 18 19 20

☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 22**	Sc in each st around	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 24**	Sc in each st around	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 26**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 27**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 28**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

Sew on the eye whites now. Lay the two eye whites flat on the body, right side out, the middle of each between rounds 17 and 18, one to each side, 5½ stitches from the center line (11 stitches apart). Sew down all 12 stitches of the edge. Then fix the eyes (see Finishing). Then stuff firmly, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 29**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 30**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 31**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside.	

Spike: make 21

Yarn A, cream.

☐ **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)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

Mouth

Yarns in order of use: E, maroon; F, coral pink.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	With F, 2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

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Side fin: make 2

Yarn C, burnt orange.

☐ **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)**
☐ **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 5 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 5 stitches.	

Tail fin

Yarn C, burnt orange.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 4 times**	**(20 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**	**(22 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 4 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 10 to 12**	Sc in each st around	**(10 sc)**

A box for each round, 10 to 12: tick them off as you go.

☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 5 stitches.	

Top fin

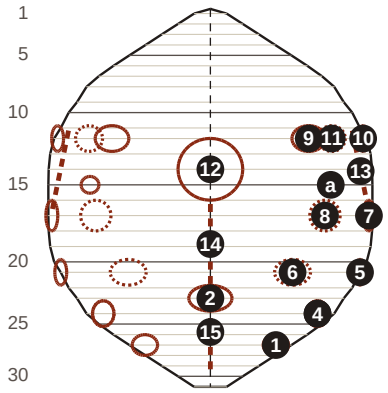
Yarn C, burnt orange.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in each st around	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(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.	

Assembly



Body: 1 spikes, 2 spike, 3 spikes, 4 spikes, 5 spikes, 6 spikes, 7 spikes, 8 spikes, 9 spikes, 10 spikes, 11 spikes, 12 mouth, 13 side fins, 14 tail fin, 15 top fin, a cheeks

A number is the step below that puts it on; a letter is put on under Finishing. 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. Pin two spikes to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 27, one to each side, 4½ stitches from the center line (9 stitches apart). The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 26 to 28 of the body. Every spike stands straight out from the body. Sew all the way round with the tail.

2. Pin one spike to the body: the middle of the open edge lies on round 23, on the center line. The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 22 to 24 of the body. Every spike stands straight out from the body. Sew all the way round with the tail.

3. Pin two spikes to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 24, one to each side, 8 stitches from the center line (16 stitches apart). The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 23 to 25 of the body. Every spike stands straight out from the body. Sew all the way round with the tail.

4. Pin two spikes to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 24, one to each side, 16 stitches from the center line (16 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 23 to 25 of the body. Every spike stands straight out from the body. Sew all the way round with the tail.

5. Pin two spikes to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 21, one to each side, 13½ stitches from the center line (27 stitches apart). The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 20 to 22 of the body. Every spike stands straight out from the body. Sew all the way round with the tail.

6. Pin two spikes to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 21, one to each side, 22 stitches from the center line (10 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 20 to 22 of the body. Every spike stands straight out from the body. Sew all the way round with the tail.

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7. Pin two spikes to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 17, one to each side, 13 stitches from the center line (26 stitches apart). The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 16 to 18 of the body. Every spike stands straight out from the body. Sew all the way round with the tail.

8. Pin two spikes to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 17, one to each side, 22½ stitches from the center line (15 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 16 to 18 of the body. Every spike stands straight out from the body. Sew all the way round with the tail.

9. Pin two spikes to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 12, one to each side, 6½ stitches from the center line (13 stitches apart). The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 11 to 13 of the body. Every spike stands straight out from the body. Sew all the way round with the tail.

10. Pin two spikes to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 12, one to each side, 13 stitches from the center line (26 stitches apart). The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 11 to 13 of the body. Every spike stands straight out from the body. Sew all the way round with the tail.

11. Pin two spikes to the body: the middle of each open edge lies on round 12, one to each side, 21½ stitches from the center line (17 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 11 to 13 of the body. Every spike stands straight out from the body. Sew all the way round with the tail.

12. Pin the mouth to the body: the middle of the open edge lies on round 14, on the center line. The edge (12 sts) covers about rounds 12 to 16 of the body. It points forward. Sew all the way round with the tail. Push round 1 in (2.5 cm) with a fingertip, so that round 2 stands up round it as two soft lips, and take one stitch through the middle of round 1 into the body to hold it there.

13. Pin the two side fins to the body: the middle of each flat edge lies on round 14, one to each side, 17 stitches from the center line (26 stitches apart across the side opposite the center line). The flat edge runs straight up and down the body, half of it above that place and half below. They point out to the side, then curve until the tip of each points out to the side and back. 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 5-stitch edge with the tail.

14. Pin the tail fin to the body: the middle of the flat edge lies on round 19, on the line opposite the center line. The flat edge runs straight up and down the body, half of it above that place and half below. It points back, then curves until its tip points to the left and up. 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 5-stitch edge with its tail of yarn.

15. Pin the top fin to the body: the middle of the flat edge lies on round 26, on the line opposite the center line. The flat edge runs straight up and down the body, half of it above that place and half below. 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 7-stitch edge with the tail.

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; begin and end each strand inside the toy. Satin stitch is straight stitches side by side until the shape is filled.
- Eyes: two 12 mm black plastic eyes, one through each eye white and the body under it, at the middle of the eye white.
- Cheeks: with F (coral pink), in satin stitch, an oval about 5/16 in (8 mm) wide and 3/16 in (5 mm) tall, its middle on the body on round 15, one to each side, 8 stitches from the center line (16 stitches apart).
- 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: 29 pieces; 2,263 stitches (18 in each eye white, 1,284 in the body, 23 in each spike, 30 in the mouth, 93 in each side fin, 168 in the tail fin, 76 in the top fin).

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

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