Easy ribbed mermaid tail

Child · US terms



Finished size

About 34 in (86 cm) around at the hips, 28¾ in (73 cm) at the waistband and 17 in (43 cm) at the ankles, 36¾ in (93 cm) long without the fin; fin about 16½ in (42 cm) long at its longest row

To fit a height of 3 ft 7 in (109 cm) to 4 ft 3 in (130 cm)

Skill

Easy

Three basic stitches in the back loop, a few color changes and a shaped fin

Yarn

Bulky (5), 3 colors

Hook

6.5 mm (US K-10½)

Gauge

10 stitches and 8½ rows to 4 in (10 cm)

In ribbed half double crochet.

What you need

Yarn A: plum, main color	**about 530 yd (485 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: orchid, stripe	**about 160 yd (146 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: pale orchid, stripe	**about 140 yd (128 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 640 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 130 yd (119 m).

Hook: 6.5 mm (US K-10½), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, a tape measure and a stitch marker.

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	Fits	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Child (this file)	**a height of 3 ft 7 in (109 cm) to 4 ft 3 in (130 cm)**	**34 in (86 cm) around, 28¾ in (73 cm)**	**about 830 yd (759 m)**
Teen	a height of 4 ft 9 in (145 cm) to 5 ft 3 in (160 cm)	37¾ in (96 cm) around, 32 in (81 cm)	about 1,120 yd (1,024 m)
Adult	a height of 5 ft 3 in (160 cm) to 5 ft 9 in (175 cm)	45¼ in (115 cm) around, 38½ in (98 cm)	about 1,550 yd (1,417 m)

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Gauge

10 stitches and 8½ rows to 4 in (10 cm) in ribbed half double crochet. Along a row, count every stitch and every chain between stitches as one.

Check it on the tail itself when 12 rows are done, laid flat and not stretched: 20 stitches of a row are about 8 in (20 cm) long, and the 12 rows are about 5¾ in (15 cm) deep where the hdc are, 4½ in (11 cm) where the sc are and 2¾ in (7 cm) where the sl sts are. If they measure more, start again with a smaller hook; if they measure less, with a larger one.

Notes

- For sitting or lying in while awake, with a grown-up near a child. It holds both legs: it is not for sleep, for walking or for stairs.
- The tail is one flat piece worked sideways. Odd rows go from the waist to the ankles, even rows from the ankles to the waist. The last row is sewn to the foundation chain afterward, at the back.
- Two rows make a rib. The ribs of the tail are of two kinds in turn: in every second rib the sc and the sl sts begin a little sooner, so that one kind of stitch runs into the next like the teeth of a comb.
- The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch: the first stitch of the row goes into the st it rises from.
- Work the sl sts as loosely as the other stitches: draw each loop up to the thickness of the hook before you go on, so that the hook slips into the back loop in the next row.
- "4 hdc in last st" puts all four into that one stitch, and "2 hdc in first st" both; so it is with 3. They and the hdc2tog are worked under both loops. All the other stitches of the tail and the fin, from row 2 on, go into the back loop, as the rows say. In the waistband and the edging of the fin no back loops are used: the stitches of a row that has a row below it go under both loops.
- To change yarn, work the last yarn over of the last stitch of the row before with the new yarn. Cut the old yarn at the end of its stripe, leaving a tail of about 6 in (15 cm), and leave a tail of the same length on the new yarn.
- Leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) when you begin, when you join a yarn and when you fasten off, unless another length is given. The ends that are not sewn with are woven in.
- When a ball runs out, work the last yarn over of a stitch with the new yarn, and leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) on both. Do it in the last stitch of a row.
- Whip stitch: with the yarn on a yarn needle, pass the needle under both loops of a stitch on one edge and under both loops of the stitch that lies against it on the other edge, and pull the yarn through. Do the same in the next stitch of each edge. On a foundation chain edge, pass the needle under the lower strands of each chain that holds a stitch of row 1. On a side edge there are no loops: pass the needle through the end stitch of the row on one side and the end stitch of the row that lies against it on the other. Fasten a length where the sewing begins and where it ends: sew 2 or 3 times into the same place.
- To join a yarn with a sl st, make a slip knot of it on the hook, put the hook in the place named, yo, and pull through the place and the loop on the hook.
- Buy whole balls from one dye lot.

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Instructions

Child. US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **hdc** half double crochet (UK half treble), **st** stitch. **hdc2tog** 2 hdc made into one. **BLO**: only the loop away from you. **yo** yarn over the hook, **RS** right side, the one that shows.

[ ] 2 times: work what is inside 2 times in all.

(40 hdc, 24 sc, 22 sl sts): the stitches you have when the row is done. **How to read a pattern**.

Tail

Yarns in order of use: A, plum; B, orchid; C, pale orchid.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 87.

Back, in A

☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Hdc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next 39 chs, sc in next 24 chs, sl st in next 22 chs (40 hdc, 24 sc, 22 sl sts)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 22 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 40 sts (22 sl sts, 24 sc, 40 hdc)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 35 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 27 sts (35 hdc, 24 sc, 27 sl sts)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 27 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 35 sts (27 sl sts, 24 sc, 35 hdc)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 40 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 22 sts (40 hdc, 24 sc, 22 sl sts)
☐ **Rows 6 to 24**	Repeat rows 2 to 5 in order, over and over. The last row, row 24, is worked as row 4.

6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

First side, in B

☐ **Row 25**	With B, ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 40 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 22 sts (40 hdc, 24 sc, 22 sl sts)
☐ **Row 26**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 22 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 40 sts (22 sl sts, 24 sc, 40 hdc)
☐ **Row 27**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 35 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 27 sts (35 hdc, 24 sc, 27 sl sts)
☐ **Row 28**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 27 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 35 sts (27 sl sts, 24 sc, 35 hdc)
☐ **Row 29**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 40 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 22 sts (40 hdc, 24 sc, 22 sl sts)
☐ **Row 30**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 22 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 40 sts (22 sl sts, 24 sc, 40 hdc)

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Front, in C

☐ **Row 31**	With C, ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 35 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 27 sts (35 hdc, 24 sc, 27 sl sts)
☐ **Row 32**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 27 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 35 sts (27 sl sts, 24 sc, 35 hdc)
☐ **Row 33**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 40 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 22 sts (40 hdc, 24 sc, 22 sl sts)
☐ **Row 34**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 22 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 40 sts (22 sl sts, 24 sc, 40 hdc)
☐ **Row 35**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 35 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 27 sts (35 hdc, 24 sc, 27 sl sts)
☐ **Rows 36 to 42**	Repeat rows 32 to 35 in order, over and over. The last row, row 42, is worked as row 34.

36 37 38 39 40 41 42

Second side, in B

☐ **Row 43**	With B, ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 35 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 27 sts (35 hdc, 24 sc, 27 sl sts)
☐ **Row 44**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 27 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 35 sts (27 sl sts, 24 sc, 35 hdc)
☐ **Row 45**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 40 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 22 sts (40 hdc, 24 sc, 22 sl sts)
☐ **Row 46**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 22 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 40 sts (22 sl sts, 24 sc, 40 hdc)
☐ **Row 47**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 35 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 27 sts (35 hdc, 24 sc, 27 sl sts)
☐ **Row 48**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 27 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 35 sts (27 sl sts, 24 sc, 35 hdc)

Back, in A

☐ **Row 49**	With A, ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 40 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 22 sts (40 hdc, 24 sc, 22 sl sts)
☐ **Row 50**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 22 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 40 sts (22 sl sts, 24 sc, 40 hdc)
☐ **Row 51**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 35 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 27 sts (35 hdc, 24 sc, 27 sl sts)
☐ **Row 52**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 27 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, hdc in BLO of next 35 sts (27 sl sts, 24 sc, 35 hdc)
☐ **Row 53**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 40 sts, sc in BLO of next 24 sts, sl st in BLO of next 22 sts (40 hdc, 24 sc, 22 sl sts)

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☐ **Rows 54 to 72**	Repeat rows 50 to 53 in order, over and over. The last row, row 72, is worked as row 52.	

54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Waistband

Yarn A, plum.

Lay the tail flat with its right side up and row 1 at the bottom, nearest to you. The waist edge, where the hdc are, is then the edge on the right. It is made of the ends of the rows, and the waistband is worked into them, from the end of row 1 to the end of the last row. The end of row 1 is the first "end of next row": join the yarn there and work the first sc into that same row end. The waistband is worked to and fro.

☐ **Foundation**	Work along the ends of the rows on the right of the tail, right side facing: 72 row ends. Turn the tail a quarter turn to the left: the waist edge now lies at the top, with row 1 at the right	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Join A with sl st in end of next row, ch 1, sc in end of each of next 72 rows	(72 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 6**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(72 sc)

2 3 4 5 6

☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Fin

Yarns in order of use: A, plum; B, orchid; C, pale orchid.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 25.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sl st in 2nd ch from hook, sl st in next 3 chs, sc in next 5 chs, hdc in next 15 chs	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 15 hdc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; 4 hdc in first st, hdc in BLO of next 14 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(18 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 3**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 17 sts, 4 hdc in last st	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 21 hdc)
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; 4 hdc in first st, hdc in BLO of next 20 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(24 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 5**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 23 sts, 4 hdc in last st	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 27 hdc)
☐ **Row 6**	Ch 1, turn; 4 hdc in first st, hdc in BLO of next 26 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(30 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 7**	With B, ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 29 sts, 3 hdc in last st	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 32 hdc)
☐ **Row 8**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 32 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(32 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 9**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 28 sts, **[**hdc2tog**] 2 times**	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 28 hdc, 2 hdc2tog)

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☐ **Row 10**	Ch 1, turn; **[**hdc2tog**] 3 times**, hdc in BLO of next 24 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(3 hdc2tog, 24 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 11**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 21 sts, **[**hdc2tog**] 3 times**	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 21 hdc, 3 hdc2tog)
☐ **Row 12**	Ch 1, turn; **[**hdc2tog**] 3 times**, hdc in BLO of next 18 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(3 hdc2tog, 18 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 13**	With C, ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 15 sts, **[**hdc2tog**] 3 times**	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 15 hdc, 3 hdc2tog)
☐ **Row 14**	Ch 1, turn; **[**hdc2tog**] 3 times**, hdc in BLO of next 12 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(3 hdc2tog, 12 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 15**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 9 sts, **[**hdc2tog**] 3 times**	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 9 hdc, 3 hdc2tog)
☐ **Row 16**	Ch 1, turn; **[**hdc2tog**] 2 times**, hdc in BLO of next 8 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(2 hdc2tog, 8 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 17**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 8 sts, hdc2tog	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 8 hdc, 1 hdc2tog)
☐ **Row 18**	Ch 1, turn; hdc2tog, hdc in BLO of next 7 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(1 hdc2tog, 7 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 19**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 8 sts	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 8 hdc)
☐ **Row 20**	Ch 1, turn; 2 hdc in first st, hdc in BLO of next 7 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(9 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 21**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 8 sts, 2 hdc in last st	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 10 hdc)
☐ **Row 22**	Ch 1, turn; 3 hdc in first st, hdc in BLO of next 9 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(12 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 23**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 11 sts, 4 hdc in last st	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 15 hdc)
☐ **Row 24**	Ch 1, turn; 4 hdc in first st, hdc in BLO of next 14 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(18 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 25**	With B, ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 17 sts, 4 hdc in last st	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 21 hdc)
☐ **Row 26**	Ch 1, turn; 4 hdc in first st, hdc in BLO of next 20 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(24 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 27**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 23 sts, 4 hdc in last st	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 27 hdc)
☐ **Row 28**	Ch 1, turn; 4 hdc in first st, hdc in BLO of next 26 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(30 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)

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☐ **Row 29**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 29 sts, 3 hdc in last st	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 32 hdc)
☐ **Row 30**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of next 32 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(32 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 31**	With A, ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 28 sts, **[**hdc2tog**] 2 times**	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 28 hdc, 2 hdc2tog)
☐ **Row 32**	Ch 1, turn; **[**hdc2tog**] 3 times**, hdc in BLO of next 24 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(3 hdc2tog, 24 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 33**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 21 sts, **[**hdc2tog**] 3 times**	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 21 hdc, 3 hdc2tog)
☐ **Row 34**	Ch 1, turn; **[**hdc2tog**] 3 times**, hdc in BLO of next 18 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(3 hdc2tog, 18 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **Row 35**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in BLO of next 4 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, hdc in BLO of next 15 sts, **[**hdc2tog**] 3 times**	(4 sl sts, 5 sc, 15 hdc, 3 hdc2tog)
☐ **Row 36**	Ch 1, turn; **[**hdc2tog**] 3 times**, hdc in BLO of next 12 sts, sc in BLO of next 5 sts, sl st in BLO of next 4 sts	(3 hdc2tog, 12 hdc, 5 sc, 4 sl sts)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Fin edging

Yarn A, plum.

Lay the fin flat with its right side up and row 1 at the bottom, nearest to you. The straight edge with the sl sts is then on the right, and the curved edge of the two tips, where the hdc are, on the left. The edging is worked into the ends of the rows along the curved edge, from the end of row 36, the last one, to the end of row 1. The end of row 36 is the first "end of next row": join the yarn there and work the first 3 sc into that same row end. Where 2 sc or 3 sc are named, all 2 or all 3 go into the end of one row.

☐ **Foundation**	Work along the ends of the rows on the left of the fin, right side facing: 36 row ends. Turn the fin a quarter turn to the right: the curved edge now lies at the top, with row 36 at the right	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Join A with sl st in end of next row, ch 1, 3 sc in end of each of next 5 rows, 2 sc in end of next row, sc in end of next row, 2 sc in end of next row, 3 sc in end of each of next 6 rows, 2 sc in end of next row, sc in end of each of next 5 rows, 2 sc in end of next row, 3 sc in end of each of next 6 rows, 2 sc in end of next row, sc in end of next row, 2 sc in end of next row, 3 sc in end of each of next 5 rows, sc in end of next row	(86 sc)
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; sl st in each st across	(86 sl sts)
☐ **End**	Fasten off.	

Assembly

1. Weave in the ends of the tail, the waistband, the fin and its edging. Fold the tail with the wrong side out, so that its last row lies against its foundation chain, the waist at one end and the ankles at the other. Put a marker through the 14th stitch of the last row and the 14th chain of the foundation, counted from the waist end. Of the chains count only the 86 that hold a stitch of row 1, not the one next to the hook that was passed over; the rows of the waistband are

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not counted either.

2. Back seam: cut two lengths of A, each about 54 in (137 cm) long. With the first, begin at the stitch beside the marker, on the side of the ankles, and whip stitch the last row to the foundation chain, one stitch to one chain, toward the ankles; go on with the second to the end: 72 stitches. From the waist to the marker the edges stay open, at the back, so that the tail is easy to slip into. Take out the marker and turn the tail right side out.

3. Foot: lay the tail flat with the seam in the middle of the back. The ankle edge, the ends of the sl st parts, is now doubled: the ends of rows 19 to 54 in front lie on those of rows 18 to 1 and 72 to 55 behind, so that row 19 lies on row 18 at one fold and row 54 on row 55 at the other: 36 pairs of row ends. Cut a length of A, about 36 in (91 cm), and whip stitch the pairs to each other from fold to fold.

4. Fin: with the front of the tail up, lay the fin below the closed foot, right side up (the side that faced you in row 1), its sl st edge along the foot: 36 row ends of the fin against the 36 pairs. The colors of the fin then stand below those of the tail, rib for rib. Cut a length of A, about 36 in (91 cm), and whip stitch each row end to the pair that lies against it, through both layers of the foot.

Finishing

- Weave in what is left of the ends with the yarn needle.
- Use the tail for sitting and resting, with the legs inside and the waist open. Do not walk in it.

In all: 2 pieces; 7,866 stitches (6,192 in the tail, 432 in the waistband, 1,070 in the fin, 172 in the fin edging).

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

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