Sea turtle coaster

US terms



Finished size

About 8 in (20.5 cm) wide and 7 in (18 cm) tall with the head, flippers and tail (20 by 18 cm); the shell alone is about 4¾ in (12 cm) tall

Skill

Intermediate

Worked in rounds, with 7 pieces, color changes and 1 special stitch.

Yarn

Medium (4), 3 colors

Hook

5 mm (US H-8)

Gauge

14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm)

In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: moss green, rounds 1 and 2 of the shell, the front flippers, the back flippers, the head and the turtle tail	**about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: teal, round 4 of the shell	**about 7 yd (6 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: deep sea blue, rounds 3 and 5 of the shell	**about 9 yd (8 m), an estimate**

Hook: 5 mm (US H-8), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking and a spray bottle.

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 and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

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)
hdc	half double crochet (UK htr, half treble)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
tr	treble crochet (UK dtr, double treble)
sk	skip (UK miss)
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side

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Special stitches

FPdtr (Front post double treble crochet; UK FPtrtr): Yarn over 3 times, insert the hook from front to back to front round the post of the stitch named, yarn over and pull up a loop, [yarn over and pull through 2 loops] 4 times. It leaves 1 FPdtr for the next round.

Gauge

14 stitches and 15 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. After round 2 the shell measures about 2¼ in (6 cm) across. If yours is larger, use a smaller hook; if it is smaller, use a larger hook.

Before you start

- Rounds are worked with the right side facing; do not turn.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work the first round or row into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed. Four chains joined into a ring with a slip stitch may be used instead.
- A chain that counts as a stitch is marked so in its line and is included in the count.
- A chain 1 at the start of a round does not count as a stitch.
- Fasten off the old color, then join the new one with a slip stitch in the place named; the first stitch or chain of the line is worked in that same place.
- Working along the other side of the chain: turn the piece round, not over, and work into the unused loops of the foundation chain, beginning in the chain next to the one just used.
- A round worked in each st around begins in the st the round before was joined in, or the new color was joined in.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches; slip stitches are not counted.
- Each dc of Rnd 3 is a corner of the dark outline, each tr of Rnd 4 is a corner of the teal round, and each FPdtr of Rnd 5 is a corner of the shell.
- In Rnd 5 each FPdtr is worked in front of Rnd 4, round the dc of Rnd 3 that lies straight below the tr. The tr behind it is not worked; the first of these is the st C was joined in, so the first FPdtr is worked round the dc straight below that st and not into it.
- Every piece has its right side up as it is worked, for none is turned over: the side that faces you is its right side.
- The rounded end of a flipper is its tip; the other end, where it begins and ends, is its plain end. A flipper is not joined into a round at its plain end.
- The tr of the turtle tail is its point; the round is joined at its wide end.
- In the line about another yarn, the longest way is from the tip of one front flipper to the tip of the other.
- Use cotton yarn: it takes up drips and stays flat under a warm cup.
- The distances under FINISHING are for the yarn and gauge above; in another yarn make them larger or smaller in the same proportion as the size.
- Backstitch (sewn): thread the yarn needle and bring it up from the back one stitch length (about ¼ in, 0.6 cm, and half that round a small curve, unless the line names another) along the line. Put it down at the start of the line and bring it up again one stitch length ahead of where it last came up; keep going down at the end of the stitch before and up one length ahead.
- French knot (sewn): bring the yarn needle up from the back, wrap the yarn twice round the needle close to the surface, hold the wraps and put the needle down beside the place where it came up. For a large knot use the yarn double and wrap it three times.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured the longest way: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 5¼ in (13 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 6¼ in (16 cm); bulky yarn (5) and a 6.5 mm hook, about 10¼ in (26 cm).

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Instructions

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, hdc is half treble, dc is treble and tr is double treble.

Shell

Yarns in order of use: A, moss green; C, deep sea blue; B, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 11 dc in ring, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	**(12 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 hdc in each st around, sl st in first hdc to join	**(24 hdc)**
	Fasten off A.	
☐ **Rnd 3**	Join C with sl st in any st, ch 1, sc in same st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, dc in next st, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st, dc in next st**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(24 sc, 6 dc)**
	Fasten off C.	
☐ **Rnd 4**	Join B with sl st in any dc, ch 3 (counts as dc), (tr, dc) in same st, dc in next 4 sts, **[**(dc, tr, dc) in next st, dc in next 4 sts**] 5 times**, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	**(36 dc, 6 tr)**
	Fasten off B.	
☐ **Rnd 5**	Join C with sl st in any tr, ch 1, FPdtr around next dc of Rnd 3, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, **[**FPdtr around next dc of Rnd 3, sk next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sl st in first FPdtr to join	**(6 FPdtr, 48 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.	

Front flipper: make 2

Yarn A, moss green.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 8.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next ch, dc in next 3 chs, hdc in next ch, 5 hdc in next ch, working along the other side of the chain, hdc in next ch, dc in next 3 chs, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch	**(2 sc, 9 hdc, 6 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 15 in (38 cm) tail for sewing.	

Back flipper: make 2

Yarn A, moss green.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 6.	
☐ **Rnd 1**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook, hdc in next ch, dc in next 2 chs, 6 dc in next ch, working along the other side of the chain, dc in next 2 chs, hdc in next ch, sc in next ch	**(2 sc, 2 hdc, 10 dc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 15 in (38 cm) tail for sewing.	

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Head

Yarn A, moss green.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 8 hdc in ring, sl st in first hdc to join	**(8 hdc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 hdc in each st around, sl st in first hdc to join	**(16 hdc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 18 in (46 cm) tail for sewing.	

Turtle tail

Yarn A, moss green.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, (sc, hdc, dc, tr, dc, hdc, sc) in ring, sl st in first sc to join	**(2 sc, 2 hdc, 2 dc, 1 tr)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing.	

Finishing

- Block: pin the pieces to shape on a flat surface: the shell as a hexagon with six straight sides, an FPdtr at every corner, and each front flipper bent sideways in a gentle curve, one to the left and one to the right, right sides up. Spray the pieces with water and let them dry.
- Face, before the head is sewn on: hold the head right side up, the place where Rnd 2 is joined at the bottom; the middle line runs straight up from there through the magic ring. Eyes: with C, work two large French knots, ¼ in (0.6 cm) above the magic ring of the head and 3/8 in (1 cm) to each side of the middle line. Smile: with C, work a curve in backstitch from one side of the middle line to the other: each of its two ends is 1/8 in (0.3 cm) below the magic ring and ¼ in (0.6 cm) from the middle line, and its lowest point is ¼ in (0.6 cm) below the magic ring on the middle line.
- Lay the shell down, right side up, with one corner, an FPdtr, at the top. Sew each piece behind it, right side up, with its sewing tail, and sew the edge of the shell to it from the front.
- Head: lay it behind the top corner, its eyes up, its magic ring ½ in (1.3 cm) above the tip of the corner.
- Front flippers: lay the plain end of each behind one of the two upper side corners, 3/8 in (1 cm) of it hidden. It points straight out from the middle of the shell, the right one to two o'clock and the left one to ten o'clock, and its tip bends down.
- Back flippers: lay the plain end of each behind one of the two lower sides, 3/8 in (1 cm) of it hidden, its middle 5/8 in (1.6 cm) from the lower side corner, so that it points straight out from that side.
- Turtle tail: lay its wide end, where its round is joined, behind the bottom corner, 3/8 in (1 cm) of the piece hidden and its point straight down.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 7 pieces.

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