Snail tape measure cover

US terms



Finished size
About 4½ × 3¼ in (11 × 8 cm)
About 4½ in (11.5 cm) long and 3¼ in (8.5 cm) tall with the eye stalks. To fit a round tape measure 2 in (5 cm) across and ½ in (1.3 cm) thick

Skill
Easy
It is single crochet in unjoined rounds, with a few parts sewn together.

Yarn
Light (3), 4 colors

Hook
3.25 mm (US D-3)

Gauge
22 stitches and 24 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: teal, the shell	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: honey, the body and the spirals	**about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: cream, the eyes	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: charcoal, the pupils and the smile	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**

Fiber: cotton

Hook: 3.25 mm (US D-3), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a round retractable tape measure 2 in (5 cm) across and ½ in (1.3 cm) thick, no larger, a small handful of toy stuffing, 4 stitch markers, 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.

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: [insert hook in next st, yo, pull up a loop] 2 times, yo, pull through all 3 loops (UK dc2tog)
BLO	back loop only
MR	magic ring
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side
yo	yarn over (UK yrh, yarn round hook)

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Gauge

22 stitches and 24 rounds 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. The gauge is checked on the piece itself: after round 6 the side should measure about 2 in (5 cm) across, laid flat and not stretched. If the piece measures more than that, begin again with a smaller hook; if it measures less, with a larger hook.

Before you start

- Begin with a magic ring: wind the yarn once round two fingers, put the hook through the ring, draw up a loop and chain 1 to hold it, which does not count as a stitch. Work round 1 into the ring, then pull the tail to draw the ring closed.
- The rounds are not joined: work in a spiral, and move a marker up to the first stitch of each round.
- All parts are worked with the right side, the outside, facing you.
- Where the pattern says BLO, put the hook under the back loop only; this makes a sharp edge.
- To change color, draw the new yarn through as the last yarn over of the stitch before. Cut the old yarn, 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.
- Measure your tape measure across and through its thickness before you begin. The shell has room for one 2 in (5 cm) across and ½ in (1.3 cm) thick, and for no larger one.
- Colors. Shell: A. Body and spirals: B. Eye stalks: rounds 1 and 2 C, rounds 3 to 7 B. Pupils and smile: D.

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 and sc2tog is dc2tog.

Shell, side with edge

Yarn A, teal.

When round 9 is done put a marker in its first stitch and one in its sixth: these 6 stitches are the gap for the tape.

☐ **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**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 2 sts	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**

> **Stop and measure now, after round 6.** The side should measure about 2 in (5 cm) across.

Edge

☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in BLO of each st around	**(36 sc)**

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☐ **Rnds 8 to 9**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**

A box for each round, 8 to 9: tick them off as you go.

8 9

☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 30 in (76 cm).	

Shell, other side

Yarn A, teal.

☐ **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**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, **[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next 2 sts	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Body

Yarn B, honey.

It is worked from the nose to the tail. Fill the head firmly when round 10 is done, the rest of the body softly as you go on, and the tail from round 27 on hardly at all. The tail of the magic ring stays inside.

☐ **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)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 7**	Sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 7: tick them off as you go.

4 5 6 7

☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**Sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 9 to 18**	Sc in each st around	**(15 sc)**

A box for each round, 9 to 18: tick them off as you go.

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**Sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 20 to 24**	Sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**

A box for each round, 20 to 24: tick them off as you go.

20 21 22 23 24

☐ **Rnd 25**	**[**Sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(9 sc)**

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☐ **Rnds 26 to 30**	Sc in each st around	**(9 sc)**

A box for each round, 26 to 30: tick them off as you go.

26 27 28 29 30

☐ **Rnd 31**	**[**Sc in next st, sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 32 to 34**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**

A box for each round, 32 to 34: tick them off as you go.

32 33 34

☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 10 in (25.5 cm). Thread it through the front loops of the last 6 stitches, draw them closed, fasten the yarn and draw the end inside.

Eye stalk: make 2

Yarns in order of use: C, cream; B, honey.

The first round is the top of the eye. Do not stuff it: work it firmly, so that it stands by itself.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	With B, sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 7**	Sc in each st around	**(6 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 7: tick them off as you go.

4 5 6 7

☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 12 in (30 cm).

Assembly

1. Weave in the starting tails of both sides of the shell, the end tail of the other side, and all the short tails of the eye stalks, on their wrong sides.

2. The spirals. Make two cords, each with B: leave a tail of 6 in (15 cm), chain 37, slip stitch in the second chain from the hook and in each chain across, 36 slip stitches. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 24 in (61 cm). Both tails hang at the same end: this is the outer end of the cord, and the end with no tail is its inner end. A cord is to be about 6½ in (16.5 cm) long, laid straight and not stretched: if yours is shorter, work it again with more chains, and if it is longer, with fewer. Lay the side with the edge right side up. Set the inner end of one cord on the middle of round 1 and wind the cord outward in a spiral, counterclockwise: the first half turn lies on round 1, the next whole turn crosses rounds 2 and 3, and the last whole turn crosses rounds 4 and 5, with about the width of one stitch of teal between one turn and the next. The outer end comes to lie on the line between round 5 and round 6. Turn the whole spiral so that the outer end points to the fifth stitch before the stitch marked first. Pin all of it, moving the turns a little closer together or farther apart until the cord reaches from the middle to the outer end with nothing over. With the long tail sew it down from the outer end to the middle: bring the needle up through the side beside the cord and down through the cord, one stitch for every second slip stitch. Take the rest of the long tail to the wrong side in the middle and the short tail to the wrong side at the outer end, and fasten both there.

3. Lay the other side right side up and sew the other cord on it in the same way, but wind it clockwise; its outer end may point anywhere.

4. Close the shell. Put the two sides together with their right sides out and the tape measure between them, its tape pointing out through the gap between the two markers. Turn the other side so that the outer ends of the two spirals are

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opposite each other. With the long tail of the side with the edge, which hangs at the end of round 9, whip stitch both loops of round 9 to both loops of round 6 of the other side, 30 stitches to 30 stitches, going round away from the gap, until only the 6 stitches from one marker to the other are left; they stay open. Work two stitches in the same place at each end of the gap. Fasten off and draw the end inside. Leave the markers. The rim of the shell, 3 rounds wide, now has two edges: at one the seam, at the other the ridge of free front loops of round 6.

5. The shell on the body. Lay the body on the table, its nose to the left: the side that is up is its top. On the top, in one straight line from the nose to the tail, put a marker in a stitch of round 16 and one in a stitch of round 22. Stand the shell upright on this line, its gap toward the tail. The seven stitches of the closed seam just before the stitch marked first are the foot of the shell: the one next to the gap stands on round 22, the six before it on rounds 21 back to 16. The gap itself is not sewn to anything. Cut a length of B 24 in (61 cm) long and whip stitch the two edges of the rim to the body along the foot: first the seam, 7 stitches, one on each of the rounds 16 to 22, each through the seam and a small stitch of the body; then the ridge on the other side of the rim, 7 stitches in the same way. Fasten off and draw both ends inside. Take all the markers out.

6. The neck and the head. In front of the shell bend the body upward at rounds 11 to 14, so that rounds 7 to 10, the neck, stand upright with their top against the front of the shell. With a new length of B 24 in (61 cm) long sew the top of round 8 to the rim of the shell with 4 small stitches through the same place. The nose now points up. Bend rounds 1 to 6, the head, forward, away from the shell, until the nose points straight ahead, level with the table. To hold it there bring the needle out under the chin, on the side of the neck that faces away from the shell, at round 9; take a small stitch at round 5 on the same side, straight toward the nose; draw the two places together until the head is level, and do this twice more. Fasten off and draw both ends inside. The top of rounds 1 to 6 is now the top of the head.

7. The pupils. With D work a French knot on round 2 of each eye stalk. French knot: bring the needle up, wind the yarn three times round it, put it in again beside the place where it came up, and draw the knot down. Fasten the ends inside the stalk.

8. The eyes. The open end of each stalk stays round. Set it on the top of the head, its middle on round 5 of the body, the two stalks beside each other, one on each side of the middle line, with 2 stitches of the head between them, both standing up and both knots looking forward, the way the nose points. Sew each down with its long tail, its right side out: 6 small stitches round it, one for each stitch of its last round. Fasten off and draw the ends inside the head.

9. The smile, with D, is on round 3 of the body: four straight stitches end to end, each 2 stitches of the round long, two on each side of the point that is exactly under the nose, so that they make a U under the nose from one side of the head to the other. Straight stitch: bring the needle up at one point and down at another, so that one line of yarn lies on the fabric. Fasten the ends inside.

10. Draw the tape out through the gap. If your tape measure runs back when its middle is pressed, press the middle of the shell.

Finishing

- Every tail is woven in or drawn inside by now. This is a tool for a sewing bag, not a toy: the tape has a sharp end.

In all: 5 pieces; 867 stitches (234 in the shell, side with edge, 126 in the shell, other side, 423 in the body, 42 in each eye stalk).

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

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