Striped reef fish

US terms



Finished size
About 4 in (10 cm) long, 3½ in (8.9 cm) across and 3½ in (8.9 cm) tall

Skill
Easy
Five pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Medium (4), 4 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: coral orange, body	**about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: white, body	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: charcoal, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: golden, tail fin, side fin and top fin	**about 30 yd (27 m), an estimate**

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4). Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins, scissors and two black plastic eyes with washers, 10 mm.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. 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
MR	magic ring
RS	right side

Gauge

20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet, in a spiral.

20 sc and 22 rounds = 4 in (10 cm), worked 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.

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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 21 and 22 of round 8 (42 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the front end.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the toy. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- 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 C (charcoal).
- 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: 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): about 3 in (7.6 cm) long, 2 5/8 in (6.7 cm) across and 2 5/8 in (6.7 cm) tall; eyes 7 mm; multiply lengths by 0.74; about 0.74 times the yarn.
- Large: bulky (5, chunky) yarn, 5 mm (H-8) hook, 14 sc and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): about 5¾ in (14.5 cm) long, 5 in (12.5 cm) across and 5 in (12.5 cm) tall; eyes 14 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): about 7¼ in (18.5 cm) long, 6¼ in (16 cm) across and 6¼ in (16 cm) tall; eyes 18 mm; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

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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.

Body

Yarns in order of use: A, coral orange; B, 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)**
☐ **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**	With B, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	With A, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 9 to 12**	Sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**

A box for each round, 9 to 12: tick them off as you go.

☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12

☐ **Rnds 13 to 14**	With B, sc in each st around	**(42 sc)**

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

☐ 13 ☐ 14

☐ **Rnd 15**	With A, **[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

Fix the eyes now (see Face and details).

☐ **Rnd 19**	With B, **[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	With A, **[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge. Shape the stuffed piece so that it is a little narrower from side to side.	

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Tail fin

Yarn D, golden.

☐ **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 2 sts**] 4 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(20 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 4 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in each st around	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 4 times**	**(20 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog**] 4 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Bury it inside when the edge is sewn on. Do not stuff. Press it flat; its last round stays open, to be sewn to the body.	

Side fin: make 2

Yarn D, golden.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**, 2 sc in next st	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**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.	

Top fin

Yarn D, golden.

☐ **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 3 sts**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**

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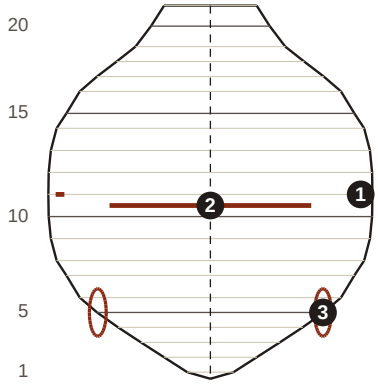
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 18 in (46 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 9 stitches.	

Assembly



Body: 1 side fins, 2 top fin, 3 eyes

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. Set the open edge of the tail fin (12 sts) on the open edge of the body (12 sts), the two folds of the fin at the top and at the bottom, so that it stands upright. With the tail of the body, sew the two edges together all the way round, topping up the stuffing of the body before the last stitches.

2. Pin the two side fins to the body: the middle of each flat edge lies on round 11, one to each side, 10 stitches from the center line (20 stitches apart). The flat edge runs along the round, half of it on each side of that place. They point out to the side and forward. Sew through both layers of the 5-stitch edge with the tail.

3. Pin the top fin to the body: the middle of the flat edge lies between rounds 10 and 11, on the center line. The flat edge runs lengthwise along the body, half of it before that place and half behind. It points up. Sew through both layers of the 9-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 10 mm black plastic eyes, on the body on round 5, one to each side, 7 stitches from the center line (14 stitches apart).
- Mouth: with C (charcoal), long straight stitches on the body: one on each side, from round 3, 3½ stitches from the center line, to round 3, 8½ stitches from the center line.
- 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: 5 pieces; 978 stitches (627 in the body, 159 in the tail fin, 57 in each side fin, 78 in the top fin); 10 ends to weave in.

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

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