Sushi cat toys

US terms



Finished size

The maki roll about 2¼ in (5.7 cm) across and 1 5/8 in (4.1 cm) tall, the nigiri about 3 in (7.6 cm) long, the shrimp about 2 7/8 in (7.3 cm) across its curl without the tail fins

Skill

Easy

Seven pieces worked in rounds and rows and sewn together.

Yarn

Medium (4), 5 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: salmon, maki roll, salmon and shrimp	**about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: white, maki roll, rice and salmon	**about 60 yd (55 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: nori green, maki roll and nori band	**about 30 yd (27 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: avocado green, maki roll	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: coral red, shrimp and tail fin	**about 25 yd (23 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 dried catnip if you like.

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, through the front loops only (the back loops in a BLO row or round): how is under “B
ch	chain stitch
MR	magic ring
RS	right side
Rnd	round
st	stitch
BLO	back loop only

Special stitches

bobble: [yarn over, insert hook in the stitch, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through 2 loops] 4 times in the same stitch, yarn over, pull through all 5 loops (United Kingdom: a bobble of 4 trebles). Push it out to the right side. It leaves 1 st for the next row or round.

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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 that has rounds 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.
- Color change in rows (the salmon of the nigiri): where a row begins "With A," or "With B,", work the last pull-through of the row before it in that yarn. Cut the old yarn each time, leaving an end of 4 in (10 cm), and knot the two ends together on the wrong side, at the edge.
- 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 A," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in A. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the toy. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- Running stitches go in and out along a line.
- 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. In a BLO round, use the back loops instead.
- No plastic eyes are used.
- 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): the maki roll about 1¾ in (4.4 cm) across and 1¼ in (3.2 cm) tall, the nigiri about 2¼ in (5.7 cm) long, the shrimp about 2 1/8 in (5.4 cm) across its curl without the tail fins; 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): the maki roll about 3¼ in (8.3 cm) across and 2 3/8 in (6 cm) tall, the nigiri about 4¼ in (11 cm) long, the shrimp about 4 in (10 cm) across its curl without the tail fins; 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): the maki roll about 4¼ in (11 cm) across and 3 in (7.6 cm) tall, the nigiri about 5½ in (14 cm) long, the shrimp about 5¼ in (13.5 cm) across its curl without the tail fins; 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.

Maki roll

Yarns in order of use: D, avocado green; A, salmon; B, white; C, nori green.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	With A, 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**	With B, **[**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**	With C, sc in BLO of each st around	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 8 to 13**	Sc in each st around	**(36 sc)**

A box for each round, 8 to 13: tick them off as you go.

☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13

☐ **Rnd 14**	With B, working in BLO all the way round, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

Stuff firmly now, with a spoonful of dried catnip in the middle if you like, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches and pull it tight to close the hole. Take the needle up through the middle, out beside the center of round 1, in again one stitch away and down to the closed hole; pull until both ends of the roll lie flat, fasten off there and bury the end inside. The end with round 1 is the top.	

Rice

Yarn 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**	**[**bobble in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(24 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in each st around	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**bobble in next st, sc in next st**] 12 times**	**(24 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sc in each st around	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 12 times**	**(24 sts)**

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☐ **Rnds 9 to 13**	Repeat rnds 5 to 8 in order, over and over. The last rnd, rnd 13, is worked as rnd 5.	

A box for each round, 9 to 13: tick them off as you go.

9 10 11 12 13

Stuff firmly now, with a spoonful of dried catnip in the middle if you like, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(18 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**bobble in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**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. Shape the stuffed piece with your fingers into an oval, about 1¾ in (4.4 cm) wide and 1¼ in (3.2 cm) tall at its widest.	

Salmon

Yarns in order of use: A, salmon; B, white.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 7 stitches wide at the start. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 8.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Row 3**	With B, ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rows 4 to 6**	With A, ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**

A box for each row, 4 to 6: tick them off as you go.

4 5 6

☐ **Row 7**	With B, ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rows 8 to 10**	With A, ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**

A box for each row, 8 to 10: tick them off as you go.

8 9 10

☐ **Row 11**	With B, ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rows 12 to 14**	With A, ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**

A box for each row, 12 to 14: tick them off as you go.

12 13 14

☐ **Row 15**	With B, ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Row 16**	With A, ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Row 17**	Ch 1, turn, sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog	**(7 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 36 in (91 cm) tail for sewing.	

Nori band

Yarn C, nori green.

Worked flat, to and fro in rows, 3 stitches wide. The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 4.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in second ch from hook and in each ch across	**(3 sc)**

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☐ **Rows 2 to 34**	Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across	**(3 sc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 34: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 36 in (91 cm) tail for sewing.	

Shrimp

Yarns in order of use: A, salmon; E, coral red.

☐ **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 2 sts**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 3 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	With E, sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 6 to 8**	With A, sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**

A box for each round, 6 to 8: tick them off as you go.

6 7 8

☐ **Rnd 9**	With E, sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 10 to 11**	With A, sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**

A box for each round, 10 to 11: tick them off as you go.

10 11

☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in next 16 sts, sc2tog	**(17 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	With E, sc in each st around	**(17 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	With A, sc in next 7 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 8 sts	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	Sc2tog, sc in next 14 sts	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	Sc in each st around	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	With E, sc in each st around	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	With A, sc in next 13 sts, sc2tog	**(14 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	Sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts	**(13 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	Sc in each st around	**(13 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 21**	With E, sc2tog, sc in next 11 sts	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 22**	With A, sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 23**	Sc in next 10 sts, sc2tog	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 24**	Sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 25**	With E, sc2tog, sc in next 8 sts	**(9 sc)**

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☐ **Rnd 26**	Sc in next 7 sts, sc2tog	**(8 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 20 in (51 cm) tail. Stuff firmly through the open end, a little at a time, pushing it in with the blunt end of the hook, with a spoonful of dried catnip in the middle if you like. Leave the last 2 rounds empty. Press them flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 4 stitches, and sew this edge closed, through both layers, with the tail. Bring the needle out at one end of the edge. From there work small running stitches in a straight line along the body as far as round 5, and draw them up until the shrimp curls into a letter C, its flat end about 1¼ in (32 mm) from the side of the first rounds. Fasten off firmly and bury the end. The line of stitches is the inside of the curl.	

Tail fin: make 2

Yarn E, coral red.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR	**(4 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat, so that the last round makes a straight double edge of 3 stitches.	

Assembly

1. Lay the rice on its side, the wider way of the oval flat on the table. Lay the salmon on it, right side up, along the top: row 1 toward round 1 of the rice, the last row toward the closed hole, reaching about the same distance past both ends of the rice, and the same distance down both sides. Let the two ends curve down. With its tail, sew it to the rice all the way round, wherever its edge touches the rice.

2. Wrap the nori band round the middle of the salmon and the rice, row 1 under the rice (its two sides look alike, so either may be outside). It fits closely. With its tail, sew the last row to the foundation chain, stitch to chain, under the rice, then sew both long edges to the salmon and the rice all the way round.

3. Pin the two tail fins to the flat end of the shrimp so that they spread apart like a V, lying flat in the same plane as the curl. The 3-stitch edge of one begins at one end of the flat end, the edge of the other at the other end, and in the middle the two overlap by 2 stitches, so that together they are as wide as the flat end (4 stitches). Let the fins lap about 1/8 in (3 mm) over the end of the shrimp. Sew through all the layers with the tails of the two fins, then take a few stitches between the two.

Finishing

- Run every end through the toy and trim it. Go round each seam a second time with a new length of yarn. Look the toys over from time to time and mend them, or put them away, when anything comes loose.

In all: 7 pieces; 1,557 stitches (468 in the maki roll, 312 in the rice, 149 in the salmon, 102 in the nori band, 374 in the shrimp, 76 in each tail fin).

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

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