Toy maracas, pair

US terms



Finished size
Each 8½ in (21.5 cm) long without its loop and 3 1/8 in (8 cm) across the head

Skill
Intermediate
Four 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.

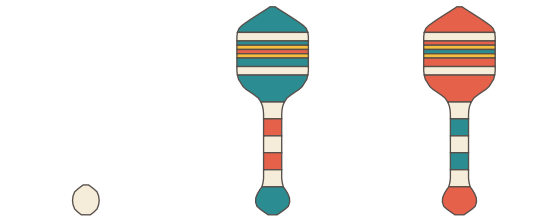
What you need

Yarn A: teal, first maraca and second maraca	**about 75 yd (69 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: coral, first maraca and second maraca	**about 75 yd (69 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: sunny yellow, first maraca, second maraca and the details	**about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: cream, bead pouch, first maraca and second maraca	**about 95 yd (87 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 140 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 200 yd (183 m).

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, scissors, a blunt stick for the stuffing, about 4 teaspoons (20 ml) of beads about ¼ in (6 mm) across for the two pouches together and if you like.

The pieces



Bead pouch x 2 **First maraca** **Second maraca**

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.

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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.

Instructions

US terms.

sc single crochet (UK dc), **hdc** half double crochet (UK htr), **dc** double crochet (UK tr), **ch** chain, **sc2tog** 2 sc made into one, **st** stitch.

2 sc in next st: **both in one stitch**. Sc in next 2 sts: one in each.

Rounds run in a **spiral**: mark the first stitch and move the marker up each round. **Working in the round**

[ ] 6 times: 6 times in all. (18 sc): the round now has 18; a check, not a step. **How to read a pattern**

Also: yo yarn over.

Every stitch, drawn: flossfield.com/crochet/stitches.

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.

Bead pouch: make 2

Yarn D, cream.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring. *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.*	
☐ **Round 1**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rounds 4 to 7**	Sc in each st around 4 5 6 7 Put no stuffing in it: fill it about two thirds with beads now, about 2 teaspoons (10 ml).	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 8**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 9**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	(6 sc)
☐	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, sew over the hole twice more and bury the end. It is not needed for a maraca that makes no sound.	

First maraca

Begin with yarn A, teal.

Round 1 is the top of the head and the last round is the end of the knob. Rounds 13 to 16 make a zigzag: in rounds 13 and 14 the tall stitches stand on tall stitches and the waves grow, and in rounds 15 and 16 the tall stitches fill the dips, so that round 16 ends level.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Round 1**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)

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☐ **Round 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Round 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Round 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Round 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Round 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 9**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 10**	With D, sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 11**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 24 times**	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 12**	With A, sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 13**	With C, **[**sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st**] 8 times**	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 14**	With B, **[**sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st**] 8 times**	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 15**	With C, **[**dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st**] 8 times**	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 16**	With A, **[**dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st**] 8 times**	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 17**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 18**	With D, sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 19**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 24 times**	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 20**	With A, sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 21**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Round 22**	Sc in each st around	(42 sc)
☐ **Round 23**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Round 24**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Round 25**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)

Stuff the head firmly now, with a filled bead pouch in the middle of the stuffing if you use one. From here on stuff the handle hard, every few rounds, with a blunt stick, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Round 26**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 27**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(15 sc)
☐ **Round 28**	With D, **[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rounds 29 to 31**	Sc in each st around	(12 sc)

29 30 31

☐ **Rounds 32 to 35**	With B, sc in each st around	(12 sc)

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32 33 34 35

☐ **Rounds 36 to 39** 36 37 38 39	With D, sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rounds 40 to 43** 40 41 42 43	With B, sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rounds 44 to 47** 44 45 46 47	With D, sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 48**	With A, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 49**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(21 sc)
☐ **Round 50**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rounds 51 to 52** 51 52	Sc in each st around	(24 sc)
☐ **Round 53**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 54**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 55**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	(6 sc)
☐	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.	

Second maraca

Begin with yarn B, coral.

Round 1 is the top of the head and the last round is the end of the knob. Rounds 13 to 16 make a zigzag: in rounds 13 and 14 the tall stitches stand on tall stitches and the waves grow, and in rounds 15 and 16 the tall stitches fill the dips, so that round 16 ends level.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Round 1**	6 sc in the ring. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Round 2**	2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Round 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Round 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Round 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Round 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 9**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 10**	With D, sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 11**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 24 times**	(48 sts)

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☐ **Round 12**	With B, sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 13**	With C, **[**sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st**] 8 times**	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 14**	With A, **[**sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st**] 8 times**	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 15**	With C, **[**dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st**] 8 times**	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 16**	With B, **[**dc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, hdc in next st**] 8 times**	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 17**	Sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 18**	With D, sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 19**	**[**sc in next st, bobble in next st**] 24 times**	(48 sts)
☐ **Round 20**	With B, sc in each st around	(48 sc)
☐ **Round 21**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **Round 22**	Sc in each st around	(42 sc)
☐ **Round 23**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Round 24**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(30 sc)
☐ **Round 25**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)

Stuff the head firmly now, with a filled bead pouch in the middle of the stuffing if you use one. From here on stuff the handle hard, every few rounds, with a blunt stick, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

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☐ **Round 27**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	(15 sc)
☐ **Round 28**	With D, **[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rounds 29 to 31** 29 30 31	Sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rounds 32 to 35** 32 33 34 35	With A, sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rounds 36 to 39** 36 37 38 39	With D, sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rounds 40 to 43** 40 41 42 43	With A, sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rounds 44 to 47** 44 45 46 47	With D, sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 48**	With B, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 49**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	(21 sc)
☐ **Round 50**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 3 times**	(24 sc)

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☐ **Rounds 51 to 52** 51 52	Sc in each st around	(24 sc)
☐ **Round 53**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Round 54**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Round 55**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	(6 sc)
☐	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.	

Assembly

1. If you use the beads, one bead pouch goes into the head of the first maraca and one bead pouch into the head of the second maraca, as the note before round 26 says.

2. Loops: for each maraca, with C (sunny yellow), leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail at both ends, ch 16 and fasten off. Fold the chain in half and sew its two ends side by side to the end of the knob, over the closed hole. Take the tails through the knob and weave them in.

Finishing

- Weave every tail through the maracas and trim it. For a child under three leave out the beads and the loops. Check the closed holes and the loops from time to time.

In all: 4 pieces; 3,024 stitches (126 in each bead pouch, 1,386 in the first maraca, 1,386 in the second maraca).

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.

Notes

- The loop it hangs by is a long cord: hang the toy where a small child cannot reach it, and for a child under three leave the loop off.
- 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.
- Color change: where a line begins "With D," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in D. Cut the old yarn and knot the ends on the wrong side.
- Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- 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.
- No plastic eyes are used.
- One size, at the gauge above: each 8½ in (21.5 cm) long without its loop and 3 1/8 in (8 cm) across the head. A thinner or a thicker yarn with a hook to suit makes it smaller or larger; every length then changes with it.

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

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