Whale baby mobile

US terms



Finished size
About 13 in (33 cm) long with the hanging loop and 13¼ in (33.5 cm) across, each whale about 4½ in (11.5 cm) long with its flukes

Skill
Intermediate
26 pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Light (3), 7 colors

Hook
3 mm

Gauge
24 stitches and 26.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet, in a spiral.

What you need

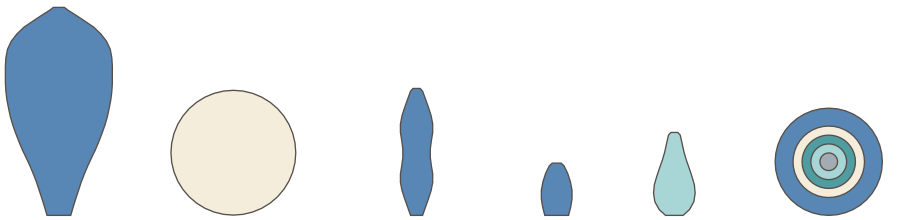
Yarn A: denim blue, the main color	**about 85 yd (78 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: teal, half circle	**about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: dove gray, half circle	**about 60 yd (55 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: cream, belly patch, half circle and the details	**about 70 yd (64 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: pale aqua, drop and half circle	**about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: black, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**
Yarn G: blush, the details	**about 5 yd (5 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 130 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).

Hook: 3 mm, or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins, scissors, a wooden ring 8 in (20 cm) across on the outside and about 5/16 in (8 mm) thick and a ceiling hook.

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.

The pieces



Whale x 3 **Belly patch x 3** **Tail fluke x 3** **Fin x 6** **Drop x 5** **Half circle x 6**

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Gauge

24 stitches and 26.4 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 1 7/8 in (4.8 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.

Notes

- 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.
- Cords: every cord is a plain chain, pulled firm. 24 ch measure about 4 in (10 cm). Leave an 8 in (20 cm) tail at each end of a cord for sewing it on; the chains counted are the ones that are seen.
- 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 E," (or another letter), work the last pull-through of the round before it in E. 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.
- Whale: the center line runs between stitches 18 and 19 of round 7 (36 sts). This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the nose.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the mobile. 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.
- No plastic eyes are used: every detail is worked in yarn.
- One size, at the gauge above: 13 in (33 cm) long with the hanging loop and 13¼ in (33.5 cm) across, each whale about 4½ in (11.5 cm) long with its flukes. A thinner or a thicker yarn with a hook to suit makes it smaller or larger; every length then changes with it.

Instructions

US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **MR** magic ring, **Rnd** round, **st** stitch.
sc2tog 2 sc made into one, **yo** yarn over the hook, **RS** right side, the one that shows.
2 sc in next st: both in one stitch. **sc in next 2 sts**: one in each.
[ ] 6 times: work what is inside 6 times in all.
(6 sc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

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Whale: make 3

Yarn A, denim blue.

Work one whale in A as it is written. Work the second in B (teal) and the third in C (dove gray): for them read B or C wherever a line or a note says A.

Stuff as you go, through the open end: firmly when round 22 is done, and lightly after that.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(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, sc in next 4 sts**] 4 times**, 2 sc in next st	(29 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in next 3 sts, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 6 sts**] 3 times**, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts	(33 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 10 sts**] 3 times**	(36 sc)

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 18 and 19 of round 7. This piece lies with its center line along the top, round 1 at the nose.

☐ **Rnds 8 to 12**	Sc in each st around	(36 sc)

8 9 10 11 12

☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in next 34 sts, sc2tog	(35 sc)
☐ **Rnd 14**	Sc in next 16 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 17 sts	(34 sc)
☐ **Rnd 15**	Sc2tog, sc in next 32 sts	(33 sc)
☐ **Rnd 16**	Sc in next 14 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 15 sts, sc2tog	(31 sc)
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 14 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts	(29 sc)
☐ **Rnd 18**	Sc2tog, sc in next 12 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 13 sts	(27 sc)
☐ **Rnd 19**	Sc in next 11 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 12 sts, sc2tog	(25 sc)
☐ **Rnd 20**	Sc in next 3 sts, **[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 2 times**, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts	(22 sc)
☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**, sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts	(19 sc)
☐ **Rnd 22**	Sc in next 7 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog	(17 sc)
☐ **Rnd 23**	Sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts	(15 sc)
☐ **Rnd 24**	Sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts	(13 sc)
☐ **Rnd 25**	Sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog	(11 sc)
☐ **Rnd 26**	Sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts	(10 sc)

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☐ **Rnd 27**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 2 times**	(8 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 20 in (51 cm) tail for sewing. Round 1 is the nose and the last round is the end of the tail. To bend the tail up: with the tail of yarn, begin at the open edge and work running stitches along the center line from round 27 to round 17 and draw them up until the middle of the open edge stands about 1 in (2.5 cm) higher than the middle of round 1. Fasten them with a knot, and bring what is left of the yarn back inside to the open edge.	

Belly patch: make 3

Yarn D, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(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**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(36 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	(42 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 26 in (66 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff. Press it flat with the right side up.	

Tail fluke: make 3

Yarn A, denim blue.

Work one in A, one in B (teal) and one in C (dove gray). It is worked from one tip to the other.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(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 each st around	(8 sc)
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 12**	Sc in each st around	(12 sc)

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☐ **Rnd 13**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 2 times**	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog**] 2 times**	(8 sc)
☐ **Rnd 15**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next st**] 2 times**	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next st**] 2 times**	(4 sc)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 4 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside. Do not stuff. Press it flat, with the center of the piece, rounds 8 and 9, as its narrow waist. Its two folds run from tip to tip.	

Fin: make 6

Yarn A, denim blue.

Work two in A, two in B (teal) and two in C (dove gray).

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(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 9 sts	(11 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sc in each st around	(11 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	Sc in next 9 sts, sc2tog	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	(8 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 4 stitches.	

Drop: make 5

Yarn E, pale aqua.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	4 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(4 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st	(5 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	(8 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 2 times**	(10 sc)
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 2 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 2 times**	(14 sc)
☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in next 13 sts, 2 sc in next st	(15 sc)
☐ **Rnd 9**	Sc in each st around	(15 sc)

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Stuff lightly now, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 3 times**	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 11**	**[**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.	

Half circle: make 6

Yarns in order of use: C, dove gray; E, pale aqua; B, teal; D, cream; A, denim blue.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR. Pull the tail to close the ring.	(6 sc)
☐ **Rnd 2**	With E, 2 sc in each st around	(12 sc)
☐ **Rnd 3**	With B, **[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	(18 sc)
☐ **Rnd 4**	With D, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	(24 sc)
☐ **Rnd 5**	With A, **[**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)
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 24 in (61 cm) tail for sewing. Do not stuff.	

Assembly

1. Put the three belly patches on the three whales, one on each, right side out: the middle of the patch lies on round 11 of the whale, on the line opposite the center line. Ease it into an oval about 2 3/8 in (6 cm) from front to back and 2 in (5 cm) across as you pin it. Sew down all 42 stitches of the edge.

2. Press the end of each tail flat from side to side, so that it makes an edge of 4 stitches that runs from front to back, and sew it shut. Then sew on the three tail flukes, one on each tail in its own color, with a new 16 in (41 cm) length of that color. The broad sides of the fluke look to the right and to the left of the whale, one tip points toward the nose and the other away from it. Lay rounds 7 to 10 of one fold of the fluke along the edge of 4 stitches and sew them down there, first on one side of the tail and then on the other. With the rest of the yarn work running stitches along the other fold, the upper one, from round 5 to round 12, and draw them up until these 8 rounds measure 5/8 in (16 mm): the two halves of the fluke rise as a wide V. Fasten off.

3. Sew on the six fins, two on each whale in its own color, one on each side. The flat edge of a fin (4 stitches) lies lengthwise along the whale, its middle on round 12, 12 stitches from the center line, half of it before that place and half behind: it lies on the upper edge of the belly patch. The fins point down and out, and the tip of each turns back toward the tail. Sew through both layers of the 4-stitch edge, through the edge of the patch and the whale under it.

4. Fold each of the six half circles in half, right side out, so that the place where its rounds begin lies at one end of the fold. Sew the two layers together along the curved edge with the tail, stitch to stitch (18 stitches). For one wave lay two of them side by side, the folds down and in one line, their lower corners touching. Lay a third one behind them, midway between the two, with its fold ½ in (13 mm) higher. Sew them together at the back wherever they touch or overlap. The wave is about 3¾ in (9.5 cm) wide. Make the second one in the same way.

5. The ring: with D (cream), make a slip knot on the hook. Work sc over the ring: put the hook through the ring from front to back, yarn over and bring the loop to the front, yarn over above the ring and draw through both loops. Push the stitches close together until the ring is covered all the way round (about 200 sc). Join with a sl st in the first sc, fasten off and weave in the end. Turn the stitches so that their tops lie along the upper outer side of the ring.

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6. The hanger: with D, work two chains of 70 ch and fasten off. Lay them side by side, fold both in half together, and tie the four strands in one knot ¾ in (2 cm) below the fold: the folds are the hanging loop, and four equal ends of about 25 ch (4 1/8 in, 10.5 cm) hang below the knot. Mark twelve places on the ring with pins, one twelfth of the way round from one to the next, and number them 1 to 12 like a clock face. Wind the tail of each end three times round the ring and knot it: midway between pins 1 and 2, between 4 and 5, between 7 and 8 and between 10 and 11.

7. The whales: with D, work one cord of 12 ch for the gray whale, one of 18 ch for the blue whale and one of 21 ch for the teal whale. Sew one end of each cord to its whale, on round 11 of the whale, on the center line. Wind the tail at the other end of each cord three times round the ring and knot it: the cord of the gray whale at pin 6, the cord of the blue whale at pin 10 and the cord of the teal whale at pin 2. The three places are one third of the way round from one to the next, so that the whales can turn and do not meet.

8. The waves: with D, work two cords of 8 ch. Sew one end of each to the belly patch of the blue whale and of the teal whale, at the middle of the patch, and the other end to the upper half circle of a wave, at the middle of its curved edge.

9. The drops: hang the five drops last. With D, work three cords of 4 ch and two of 3 ch. Round 1 is the top of a drop. Sew a cord of 4 ch between the middle of the belly patch of the gray whale and round 1 of a drop, the next between the closed hole of that drop and round 1 of a second one, and the last between the second and a third. Sew each cord of 3 ch between round 1 of one of the other two drops and the lower edge of a wave, at the place where the corners of its two front half circles meet. Hang the mobile up, and slide the ends of the hanger a little along the ring until it hangs level.

Finishing

- Embroider with one strand of yarn and the yarn needle when the pieces round the place are sewn on; begin and end each strand on the wrong side of a flat piece, inside a stuffed one. Satin stitch is straight stitches side by side until the shape is filled. Backstitch is a line of short stitches end to end: bring the needle up one stitch ahead, put it down at the end of the stitch before, and repeat.
- Eyes: with F (black), in satin stitch, a round dot about ¼ in (6 mm) across on each side of each whale, its middle on round 7, 9½ stitches from the center line.
- Eye shine: with D (cream), one small stitch, worked twice in the same holes, near the upper edge of each eye, about 1/16 in (2 mm) long.
- Cheeks: with G (blush), in satin stitch, an oval about 3/16 in (5 mm) wide and 1/8 in (3 mm) tall on each side of each whale, its middle on round 9, 10 stitches from the center line.
- Mouth: with F (black), in backstitch, a smile on each side of each whale, one curve about ¼ in (6 mm) wide that dips 1/16 in (2 mm) below its ends. Its two ends lie on the upper edge of the belly patch, one on round 7 and the other on round 9 of the whale.
- Weave every tail into the piece it belongs to and trim it. Check the hook, the knots and the seams from time to time. Hang the mobile from a firm hook in the ceiling, well out of reach: no part of it may hang where a baby or a child can touch it, and it is never tied to a crib. It is a decoration, not a toy.

In all: 26 pieces; 4,594 stitches (667 in each whale, 168 in each belly patch, 140 in each tail fluke, 63 in each fin, 107 in each drop, 126 in each half circle).

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

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