



In the Loop!

*Newsletter of Crochet Texas! a chapter of Crochet Guild of America
Spring 2026*

Using Your Crochet Hook Unleashes Your Superpower!

With a bit of yarn and hook in your hand, you can help keep someone warm, entertain sick children in the hospital, help purchase items for a charity hospital that their budget does not cover, let someone know you care for them, or even simply brighten someone's day.

Crochet Texas! has certain charities it supports as a group. These are the Scottish Rite Hospital, and charity recipients of the annual Crochet Guild of America Chapter Challenges. Then there are charities that a member may bring to light and others join in, such as the critters for the Lewisville Library. But Crochet Texas! supports all charity work done by Crochet Texans with tickets earned for items created, whether they are donated via the guild or not. This support is done by giving out virtual tickets for the items created, and then holding a drawing each January for four winners. Each winner receives \$30. A new offering will be a prize drawn for those who participate in the Chapter Challenge.

One of the most popular charity efforts in 2025 was the CGOA Chapter Challenge. People had a lot of fun making the crocheted flyer discs, and Crochet Texas! was a runner-up in the challenge.





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Charity (continued)

Other Chapter Challenges have included shawls, soap sacks, and hearts.



Crochet Texas! had donated items to the holiday bazaars at Scottish Rite Hospital for over a quarter of a century.



See page 3



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Charity (continued)

We also have fun making critters for families with young children who join the Lewisville Library. Here are a few:



2026 Upcoming Classes*

April and May: Tunisian Leaf Stitch Jewelry
Christine will be teaching.



June: Making Stitch Markers
Jan will be teaching.



**Class topic and/or delivery format are subject to change without prior notice. Check on Facebook each month for any changes.*

Beginner Crochet Classes Are Blooming at Crochet Texas!

Crochet Texas! launched its beginner crochet classes at the start of 2025, and the response has been inspiring. With over a dozen students joining us so far, our classroom has become a vibrant mix of curiosity, creativity, and first-time triumphs. We're thrilled to see so many new makers picking up hooks for the very first time.

Our students come from all backgrounds and ages. Some arrive with a bit of crochet experience, while for many, this is their very first slip knot. No matter where they begin, our teachers tailor their instruction to each student's pace and comfort level, ensuring everyone feels supported and encouraged. We even had a man who wanted to learn to crochet in honor of his mom who tried to teach him as a child. One of our standout stories is about a pre-teen student who returned several times to complete a charming amigurumi flower. She began with simple chain stitches and, with just four sessions, proudly finished her first 3D project.



Students are welcome to bring their own materials, but we also provide crochet kits with yarn and hooks for those who do not have crochet supplies.

Watching our students grow has been one of the most rewarding parts of offering these classes.

Crochet is more than a craft — it's a creative outlet, a calming practice, and a way to connect with others. Our beginner classes offer all of that and more. We hope readers feel inspired to join a class, try something new, and discover the joy that comes from making something with their own hands.

Ready to learn crochet? Sign up today!
<https://forms.gle/8sLBpkJmKjGqfiRRA>



All class details — dates, times, materials, and what to expect — are included in the form.



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Crochet Texas! Membership

Crochet Texas! (CT) is a chapter of the Crochet Guild of America (CGOA).

Per the CGOA, all *Members* of a chapter must be members of the CGOA. But wait! No one will be left out.

To be a *Member* of Crochet Texas!, you must be a member of the CGOA. Dues for Crochet Texas! are \$30 a year, and dues for the CGOA are \$35 annually for a digital membership or \$40 with a hard copy of *Crochet World* magazine. To learn more about the CGOA, and for information about benefits and joining, go to www.crochet.org.

You can enjoy almost all the benefits of Crochet Texas! by purchasing a *Crochet Texas! Annual Guest Pass* for \$30 a year. Classes, monthly door prizes, access to our video library, and more will be available to you. You will not have a vote in chapter business (but you will still have input in votes like choosing classes). Like chapter *Members*, you can be a Committee leader or member. Please fill out a [Membership Application](#). It works for both CGOA Members and Guest Pass Applicants.

We meet on the third Saturday of each month, January – November, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Our September meeting is often held at DFW Fiber Fest in Irving. Meetings are hybrid: online via Zoom and in person at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church, 6525 Inwood Rd., Dallas, Texas 75209. The meetings are held in the South Room, the first room at the corner of Inwood and Mockingbird. (*This is not a church-sponsored group. Please do not send any mail to the church. All communication should be via CT! email or Facebook.*)

Visitors can receive their first class for free (except for any applicable class fees), in person or on Zoom, before deciding to join. visit+subscribe@crochettexas.groups.io.



If you're feeling unwell or have been exposed to illness, please join us via Zoom to keep everyone safe. Masks are optional for in-person attendees. For more information about the meetings, please email crochettexas@gmail.com.

North Texas Crochet Guild, Our Sister Guild

The North Texas Crochet Guild (NTCG) is not a chapter of the CGOA. We are a social group with no dues or formal class instruction. We meet via Zoom only.

We meet on the first Saturday of each month, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. For more information, email jscogin@swbell.net. Subscribe to NTCG emails at northtexascrochetguild+subscribe@groups.io.



State Fair of Texas

Registration: July 17 (mailed entries must be received before then)

Entry Drop Off: July 31 – August 2

Pick Up for Non-Winning Entries:
August 29 – 29

Pick Up for-Winning Entries:
October 23 – 24

Create an account at bigtex.com/getcreative.

DFW FiberFest

Registration for Classes begins May 2.
Classes will be held August 27- August 30

Check out class schedule and more at <https://dfwfiberfest.org/>.





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Friday the Fish Crochet Pattern by Thalia Evans

Friday the Fish is on Ravelry (<https://ravel.me/friday-the-fish>), and I emailed Thalia for permission to use it in the newsletter. Her mother responded that sadly Thalia had passed away last year. She was sure Thalia would be happy to share it. I am including it in her memory.

You'll need:

- 3.5mm crochet hook
- DK yarn in colour(s) of your choice; this fish is based on a carp/goldfish but can be made in any colour.
- Toy stuffing (a good way to use up scraps of yarn!)
- Needle, scissors, pins, stitch markers
- For the eyes: Black (or contrasting) and white embroidery thread, or alternatively 4-5mm safety eyes or round beads

Pattern uses US terms:

- slst** = slip stitch
- sc** = single crochet
- hdc** = half double crochet
- dc** = double crochet
- inc** = increase (2 sc in same stitch)
- dec** = decrease (sc2 together)
- FLO** = work in front loop only
- BLO** = work in back loop only
- shift stitch**= at the end of the current round, move stitch marker forward (if right handed) or back (if left handed) one stitch. Count the stitch after the marker as stitch 1 of the new round.

Approx finished size 4 inches long. The example fish were crocheted right handed. if you hold the hook in your left hand, you will have to mirror the photos.

The pattern includes two options for completing this project:



Option 1:

Easy- sew-together. Body & tail are made in one piece, fins are made separately and sewn on at the end. Less fiddly, but involves a lot of sewing and making sure fins are placed correctly.

Use this option if you want to make contrasting colour fins easily, want to customise the position of the fins or don't mind sewing.



Option 2:

Hard- seamless. The body, fins and tail are crocheted in place using one continuous strand of yarn. Involves some fiddly stitches but NO sewing. Use this option if you don't like sewing on lots of small pieces or don't want to worry about getting the fins in the right places. Works well with ombre or self stripping yarn.



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BODY

The body is worked in continuous spiral rounds, using increases and decreases for shaping. Do not join rounds. Make sure the right side of the work is facing out. To create the gill details (and fins in option 2) you'll need to work in the front loops only, back loops only or middle loops only as indicated in the pattern. For all other scs work in both loops. The **tail** is worked in rows after stuffing and closing the body.

Important: use a stitch marker to keep track of the start of the round. Stitch markers in the stitch before and after each gill/fin may also be helpful if you have trouble finding the back loops.

A note on shift stitches: the start of the round will always shift gradually to the right (or left, if you crochet left handed) when working in continuous rounds. To keep the body symmetrical and prevent twisting, this pattern requires a shift stitch every few rounds. For me, this is every 5th round and this is what is written in the pattern. However, your tension, yarn weight and hook size may mean you need to make a shift stitch more or less often. I recommend that the first time you try this pattern you use a running stitch marker to keep track of the centre line.

BODY OPTION 1 (sew-together)

Round 1. chain 2, sc 6 into 2nd chain from hook. (or sc 6 in a magic ring) (6)

Round 2. sc 1, inc in next 4 stitches, sc 1. (10)

Round 3. sc 1, inc, sc 2, inc, inc, sc 2, inc, sc 1. (14)

Round 4. sc 3, inc, sc 6, inc, sc 3. (16)

Round 5. sc around. **Make a shift stitch.** (16)

This completes the head of the fish. In the next round you'll make the gills using taller stitches.

Round 6. inc, sc 1. hdc 1 FLO, dc 3 FLO, hdc 1 FLO. sc2.

hdc 1 FLO, dc 3 FLO, hdc 1 FLO. sc 1, inc. (18)



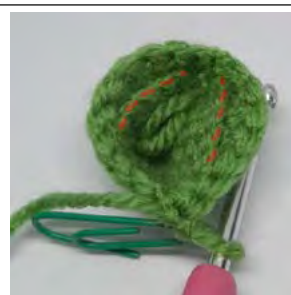
Work in the front loops only for the indicated stitches. (highlighted in red)



First gill completed (stitch 8 of round)



View of gills, looking down at top of fish head.



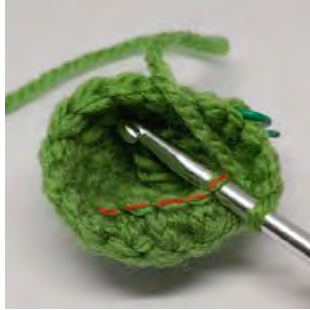
Round 6 complete. Note the back loops (highlighted in red)

At the end of this round the back loops will be visible as horizontal bars on the inside of the head. In the next round you'll ignore the gill stitches and work into these back loops so that the gills will form flaps.



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Round 7. sc 3, sc 5 BLO. inc, inc. sc 5 BLO, sc 3. (20)



Work in the back loops only for the indicated stitches, ignoring the hdc's and dc's you made in the last round.



Round 7 completed with the gills forming flaps.

Round 8. inc, sc 6, inc, sc 4, inc, sc 6, inc. (24)

Round 9. sc 1, inc, sc 7, inc, sc 4, inc, sc 7, inc, sc 1. (28)

Round 10. sc around. **Make a shift stitch.** (28)

Round 11. sc around. (28)

Round 12. sc around. (28)

Round 13. sc around. (28)

Round 14. sc around. (28)

Round 15. sc 1, dec, sc 22, dec, sc 1. **Make a shift stitch.** (26)



Round 10.



Round 15.

*If you are going to use safety eyes, add them now before the body opening becomes too small. (to help place the eyes, note that the start/end of the round is on the **belly** of the fish. I suggest placing each eye at approx Round 4 and lining the eye up with middle dc of gill.)*

Round 16. sc 2, dec, sc 5, dec, sc 4, dec, sc 5, dec, sc 2. (22)

Round 17. sc 2, dec, sc 3, dec, sc 4, dec, sc 3, dec, sc 2. (18)

Round 18. sc 3, dec, sc 8, dec, sc 3. (16)

Round 19. sc 3, dec, sc 6, dec, sc 3. (14) *Stuff the body now.*

Round 20. sc 2, dec, sc 6, dec, sc 2. **Make a shift stitch.** (12)

*If you want a contrasting tail fin, make a colour change at the end of the **next** round.*

Round 21. sc 2, dec, sc 4, dec, sc 2. (10)

Round 22. sc around. (10)

This completes the body!

DO NOT CUT YARN OR FASTEN OFF.

*Continue to **Tail** instructions (page 12).*



Round 20, stuffed



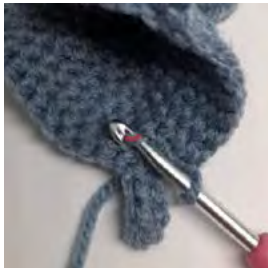
In the Loop!

BODY OPTION 2 (seamless)

*In this option you'll build the pectoral, pelvic, dorsal and ventral fins as you go along. You'll build the fins in the front loops of the indicated stitches. In the next round, you'll work in the back loops of those stitches. Use stitch markers if you have trouble finding the back loops. Also note you'll work into the **middle loops** of any hdc's. (see photos below.)*



Pectoral fin back loops.



Dorsal fin back loop.



Top-down view of a hdc row.
Middle loops are shown in red.

Round 1 to Round 7. Follow the instructions for **Body Option 1**.

Round 8. inc, sc2. You'll now build the first pectoral fin in rows:

1. Sc 1 FLO in the next stitch (stitch 5 of round). Chain up 5.
2. Hdc 4 down the chain. Slst 1 in the **front loop you started in** (stitch 5). Chain 1.
3. Turn the work. Hdc 3 along the fin in the **middle loops only**. Chain 1.
4. Turn the work. Hdc 3 along the fin in the **middle loops only**.
Sc 1 FLO in the **next** stitch in the round (stitch 6).



1



2



3



4

Now continue the round:

sc 2, inc, sc 4, inc, sc 2. You'll now build the second pectoral fin in rows:

1. Sc 1 FLO in the next stitch (stitch 19 of round). Chain up 4.
2. Hdc 3 down the chain. Slst 1 in the **front loop you started in** (stitch 19). Chain 1.
3. Turn the work. Hdc 3 along the fin in the **middle loops only**. Chain 2.
4. Turn the work. Hdc 1 in the 2nd chain from hook, then hdc 3 along the fin in the **middle loops only**. Sc 1 FLO in the **next** stitch in the round (stitch 20).



1



2



3



4



In the Loop!

Now complete the round:

In the remaining 3 stitches, sc 2, inc. (24 stitches in round)

Round 9. sc 1, inc, sc 7, inc, sc 4, inc, sc 7, inc, sc 1. (28)

Round 10. sc around. **Make a shift stitch.** (28)

Round 11. sc 13. *You'll now build the first part of the dorsal fin:*

1. Sc 1 FLO in the next stitch (stitch 14 of round). Chain up 5.
2. Hdc 4 down the chain. Sc 1 in the **front loop you started in** (stitch 14).



1



2

Trust the pattern here- this will look wrong at this point as the fin will be flat. Don't worry, the next few rounds will fix this and produce an upright fin.

Now continue the round:

sc 11. *You'll now build the first pelvic fin. This is exactly the same as the **second pectoral fin** that you made in **Round 8** (page 8), refer to the photos if you need to.*

1. Sc 1 FLO in the next stitch (stitch 26 of round). Chain up 4.
2. Hdc 3 down the chain. Slst 1 in the **same front loop** (stitch 26). Chain 1.
3. Turn the work. Hdc 3 along the fin in the **middle loops only**. Chain 2.
4. Turn the work. Hdc 1 in the 2nd chain from hook, then hdc 3 along the fin in the **middle loops only**. Sc 1 FLO in the **next** stitch in the round (stitch 27).

Now complete the round:

sc1 in the remaining stitch.

Round 12. sc 1. *You'll now build the second pelvic fin. This is exactly the same as the **first pectoral fin** that you made in **Round 8** (page 8), refer to the photos if you need to:*

1. Sc 1 FLO in the next stitch (stitch 2 of round). Chain up 5.
2. Hdc 4 down the chain. Slst 1 in the **front loop you started in** (stitch 2). Chain 1.
3. Turn the work. Hdc 3 along the fin in the **middle loops only**. Chain 1.
4. Turn the work. Hdc 3 along the fin in the **middle loops only**.
Sc 1 FLO in the **next** stitch in the round (stitch 3).

Now complete the round:

sc 25. (28 stitches in round.)



Pelvic fins should look like this.



In the Loop!

Round 13. sc 13. *You'll now build the second part of the dorsal fin:*

1. Sc 1 FLO in the next stitch (stitch 14 of round). *Slightly twist the dorsal fin clockwise so that the row of hdc is facing upwards.*
2. Hdc 3 up the fin in the **middle loops only**. Chain 1.
3. Turn the work. Hdc 3 down the fin in the **middle loops only**.
4. Sc 1 in the **front loop you started in** (stitch 14). *The fin should now stand upright by itself.*



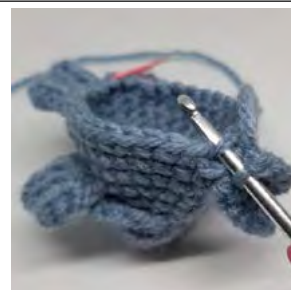
1



2



3



4

Now complete the round:
sc 14. (28 stitches in round.)

Round 14. sc around. (28)

Round 15. sc 1, dec, sc 10. *You'll now build the third and final part of the dorsal fin. This is the same as the **second dorsal fin section** you made in round 13 (page 10), refer to the photos if you need to:*

1. Sc 1 FLO in the next stitch (stitch 13 of round).
2. Hdc 3 up the fin in the **middle loops only**. Chain 1.
3. Turn the work. Hdc 3 down the fin in the **middle loops only**.
4. Sc 1 in the **front loop you started in** (stitch 14).



Completed dorsal fin.

Now complete the round:
sc 11, dec, sc 1. **Make a shift stitch.** (26 stitches in round.)

If you are going to use safety eyes, add them now before the body opening becomes too small. (I suggest placing each eye at approx Round 4 and lining the eye up with middle dc of gill.)



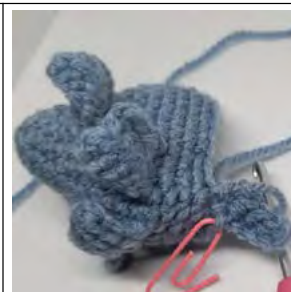
Round 15.



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Round 16. sc 2, dec, sc 5, dec, sc 4, dec, sc 5, dec, sc1. *You'll now build the first part of the ventral fin in the last stitch of the round. This is the same as the **first dorsal fin section** you made in round 11 (page 9), refer to the photos if you need to:*

1. Sc 1 FLO in the next stitch (stitch 22 of round). Chain up 5.
2. Hdc 4 down the chain. Sc 1 in the **front loop you started in** (stitch 22).

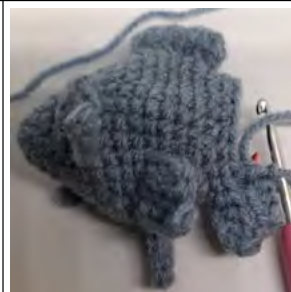


First part of ventral fin.

Round 17. sc 2, dec, sc 3, dec, sc 4, dec, sc 3, dec, sc 2. (18)

Round 18. sc 3, dec, sc 8, dec, sc 2. *You'll now build the second and final part of the ventral fin in the last stitch of the round. This is the same as the **second dorsal fin section** you made in round 13 (page 10), refer to the photos if you need to:*

1. Sc 1 FLO in the next stitch (stitch 16 of round). *Slightly twist the ventral fin clockwise so that the row of hdc's is facing upwards.*
2. Hdc 3 up the fin in the **middle loops only**. Chain 1.
3. Turn the work. Hdc 3 down the fin in the **middle loops only**.
4. Sc 1 in the **front loop you started in** (stitch 16).



Second part of ventral fin.

Round 19. sc 3, dec, sc 6, dec, sc 3. (14) *Stuff the body now.*

Round 20. sc 2, dec, sc 6, dec, sc 2. **Make a shift stitch.** (12)

*If you want a contrasting tail fin, make a colour change at the end of the **next** round.*

Round 21. sc 2, dec, sc 4, dec, sc 2. (10)

Round 22. sc around. (10)

This completes the body!

DO NOT CUT YARN OR FASTEN OFF.

*Continue to **Tail** instructions (page 12).*



Round 20, stuffed



In the Loop!

TAIL

The tail is made the same way for both **Body Option 1** and **Body Option 2**. The tail is worked in rows.

Important note:

Whenever you work into a hdc, make the stitch in the **middle loop only**. This creates a ridged texture on both sides of the tail fin.



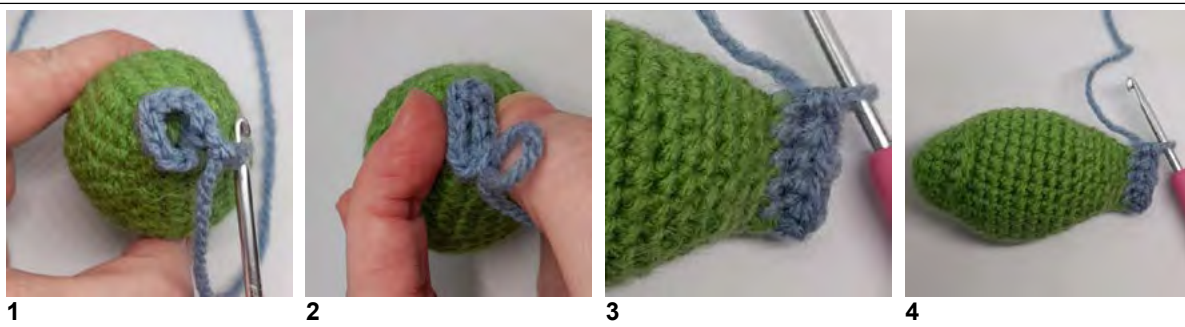
Looking down on a row of hdcs, middle loops shown in red.

First, close the body.

1. Chain 1.
2. pinch both sides of the opening together. Make sure the opening is vertical. Use the gills and/or fins to find the top and bottom of the fish body.
3. Make 5 scs through both sides to close the opening. Don't worry if you can't match up the stitches perfectly. Just make sure there are 5 scs and the resulting row is vertical.

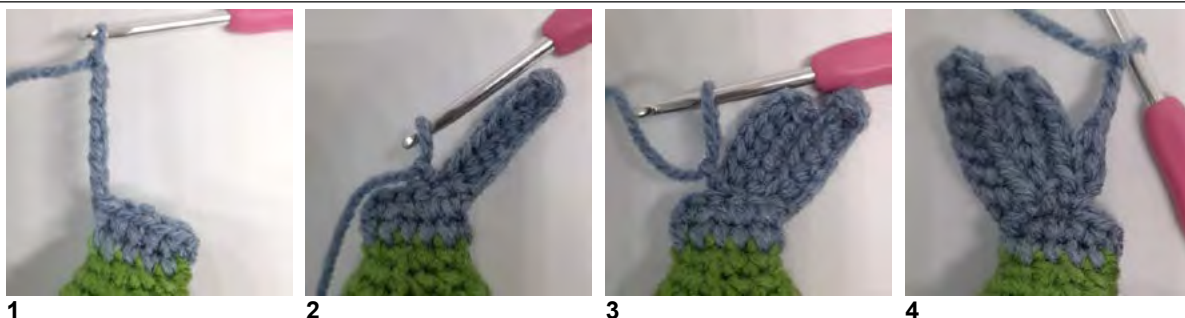
You have now created the base of the tail, which should look something like **photo 4!**

DO NOT CUT YARN OR FASTEN OFF.



You'll now build the tail. This is worked in rows, like the fins on the body.

1. Chain 8.
2. Hdc 7 down the chain. Slst into **stitch 2** of the tail base. Chain 1.
3. Turn the work. Hdc 5 up the fin. Chain 1 & turn work.
Hdc 5 down the fin, then slst into **stitch 3** of the tail base. Chain 1.
4. Turn the work. Hdc 2 up the fin. Chain 4.





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5. Turn the work. Hdc 3 down the chain, then hdc 2 down the fin. Slst into **stitch 4** of the tail base. Chain 1.
6. Turn the work. Hdc 5 up the fin. Chain 3.
7. Turn the work. Hdc 2 down the chain, then hdc 5 down the fin. Slst into **stitch 5** of tail base.



5



6



7

This completes the tail! Fasten off, secure the yarn tail with a knot and hide it inside the body. Squish the body back into shape if you need to.



*If you used **Body Option 1**, you will now need to make and sew on the fins. Continue to the **Fins** instructions (page 14).*



*If you used **Body Option 2**, the fish is complete! Add eyes and/or a mouth if you haven't already (see page 16).*



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FINS

The fins are crocheted in rows. Make them in a contrasting colour to the body if you like.

The fish has 6 fins:

1 dorsal fin, 2 pectoral fins, 2 pelvic fins, and 1 ventral fin.

Important note:

Whenever you work into a hdc, make the stitch in the **middle loop only**. This creates a ridged texture on both sides of each fin.



Looking down on a row of hdcs, middle loops shown in red.

DORSAL FIN (make 1)

1. Chain 5. Hdc 4 along the chain, chain 1 & turn work.
 2. Hdc 3 along row, chain 1 & turn work.
 3. Hdc 3 along row, chain 1 & turn work.
 4. Hdc 3 along row, chain 1 & turn work.
 5. Hdc 3 along row.
- Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.



BODY/VENTRAL FINS (make 5)

1. Chain 5. Hdc 4 along the chain, chain 1 & turn work.
 2. Hdc 3 along row, chain 1 & turn work.
 3. Hdc 3 along row.
- Fasten off and leave a long tail for sewing.





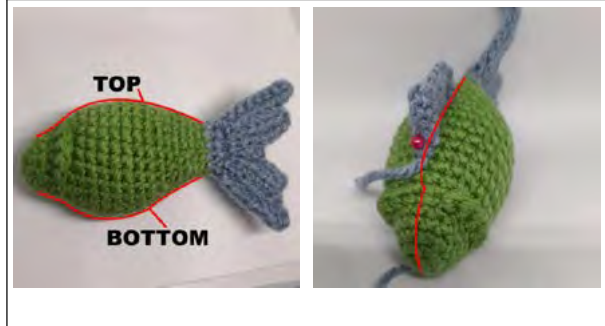
In the Loop!

ATTACHING THE FINS

You can customise the position of the fins however you like, but place them as shown below if you want to match the no-sew version of the fish.

To help place the fins, see the photos to the right. The **TOP** (back) of the fish has a smoother curve and the **BOTTOM** (belly) has more of a bulge towards the front.

Use the tail fin and gills to help find the midline of the fish.



1. Dorsal/Ventral fins: Pin the larger dorsal fin into place along the top of the fish, with the tallest part of the fin towards the front. The front edge of the fin should be at around **Round 11**.

Pin one of the smaller fins into place along the bottom of the fish, with the tallest part towards the front. The front edge of the fin should be at around **Round 16**, behind the dorsal fin.

Sew the fins into place and hide the yarn tails inside the body.

2. Pectoral fins: Pin each pectoral fin into place just behind the gill, with the longest edge at the bottom. Line up the bottom edge of the fin with the lowest stitch of the gill.

3. Pelvic fins: Pin each of the two remaining fins into place on the belly of the fish, with the longest edges towards the midline. Position the front edge of each fin at around **Round 11**, between the pectoral and ventral fins.

Sew each fin into place along its front edge and hide the yarn tails inside the body.



1

2

3

The fish is now complete and should look something like the photo on the right! Add eyes and/or a mouth if you haven't already



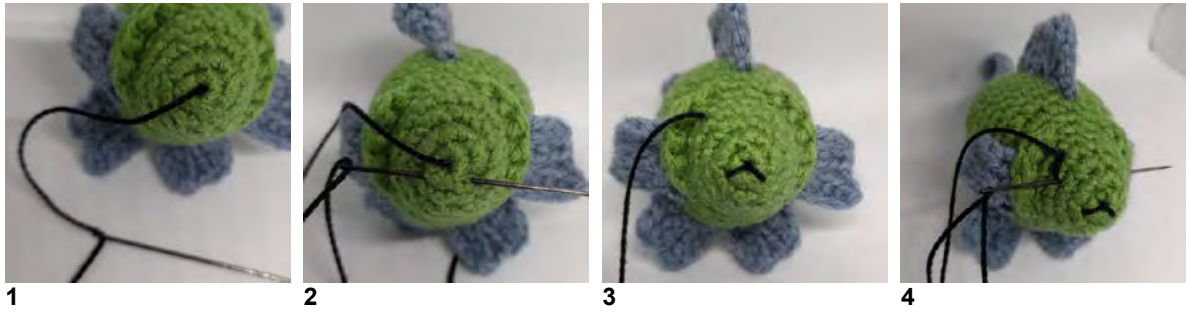


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Mouth & Eyes

You can create the eyes and mouth any way you like to give the fish some character, but the method I use for a simple embroidered face is below.

1. Thread a piece of embroidery cotton. Insert the needle underneath a gill and pull the thread through the hole in the centre of **Round 1**.
2. Insert the needle below and just to the left of the hole and bring it out below and to the right of the hole. Pull the thread through to make a diagonal stitch.
3. Insert the needle through the centre hole again and bring it out where you would like the first eye to be. Pull the thread through to create a ^ -shaped mouth.
4. Insert the needle just below where the thread emerges and bring it out on the other side of the head, where you'd like the second eye to be. Continue stitching back and forth through the head until the eyes are as large as you want them. Insert the needle again and bring it out under the gill where you started. Tie the ends in a knot and hide them inside the body.



To finish off the eye, add a small highlight by making a stitch in white at the top of each eye.

If you've used safety eyes or beads, you could make a stitch above and below each eye in contrasting coloured yarn to create an eye ring.

I hope you enjoyed making this little fish! :)



Pattern by Thalia Evans. This pattern is intended for personal use to make Random Acts of Crochet Kindness. Please give credit where appropriate and do not reuse the photos in this document. If you use bead or safety eyes, the finished item will not be suitable for children under 3 due to small parts. www.woollytea.carrd.co