



Fish You Were Here Tank Top

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Materials

Any yarn and corresponding hook. Yarns used here are KC Essential Cotton (3.5 oz/180 yds) and Big Twist Baby Bunny (3.5 oz/284 yds).

Yardage estimated for **fish only**, 3 weight yarn and 4mm hook. Fits bust up to

30 (34, 38, 42) (46, 50, 54) (58, 62) inches:

233 (248, 293, 323) (353, 385, 412) (442, 472) total yards

Yards for outline and details (shown white on orange fish):

68 (72, 85, 94) (103, 112, 120) (128, 137)

Yards for main color (shown orange on orange fish):

165 (176, 208, 229) (250, 273, 292) (314, 335)

Any hook corresponding to yarn weight. Hook used here: 4mm

Gauge

Made to measure, gauge not important

Finished Size

Made to measure.

Stitches and Abbreviations

Chain (ch)

Stitch (st)

Slip Stitch (sl st)

Single Crochet (sc)

Single Crochet 2 Together (sc 2-tog)

Half Double Crochet (hdc)

Double Crochet (dc)

Yarn Over (YO)

Special Stitches

Foundation Single Crochet (FSC): *(Step 1)* Ch 2. Insert the hook under the two top loops (the “v”) of the first chain. YO, pull up a loop (now 2 loops on hook), YO, pull through one loop. YO, pull through both loops on hook (first FSC made).

(Step 2) Working in ch beneath last sc, insert hook through both loops at bottom of ch (front loop and loop right behind it). YO, draw up a loop, YO, pull through one loop. YO and draw through both loops on hook.

Repeat Step 2 to desired length.

V Stitch (V-st): (Dc, ch 1, dc) in same st or space.

Back Post Single Crochet (BPsc): Work the sc around the post or st below it, rather than into the top of it. Insert hook in the space to the right of the post, from back to front. Insert hook in the space to the left of the post, from front to back. The post will be behind the hook. YO, draw up a loop. YO, draw through two loops on hook.

Herringbone Double Crochet (HBdc): YO, insert hook in st. YO, pull loop through st AND first loop on hook. YO, draw through next loop on hook. YO, draw through last two loops on hook.

Herringbone Double Crochet Two Together (HBdc 2-tog): YO, insert hook in st. YO, pull loop through st AND first loop on hook. YO, draw through next loop on hook. YO, insert hook in NEXT st. YO, pull loop through st AND first loop on hook. YO, draw through next loop on hook. YO and draw through all three loops on hook.

Front Post Double Crochet (FPdc): Work the dc around the post of the st below it, rather than into the top of it. YO, insert hook in the space to the right of the post, from front to back. Insert hook in the space to the left of the post, from back to front. The post will be in front of the hook. YO, draw up a loop. (YO, draw through two loops on hook) twice.

Back Post Single Crochet (BPsc): *Work the sc around the post or st below it, rather than into the top of it. Insert hook in the space to the right of the post, from back to front. Insert hook in the space to the left of the post, from front to back. The post will be behind the hook. YO, pull up a loop. YO, pull through both loops on hook.*

Back Post Slip Stitch (BPslst): Follow italics for BPsc. YO, pull through loop on hook.



Notes

Ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a st.
Ch 3 at the start of a row counts as the first dc.

Top is made in 2 parts: Fish (tail + head and body + 2 fins + surface crochet or embroidery) and Body.

There are two options for connecting the Fish and the Body. **1:** Body is made seamlessly top -> down, starting the first Body round around the bottom of the Fish. You will most likely have to then add a “patch” behind part of the fish, for additional coverage in the front. This option is more subjective and freeform, but will use less yarn and require significantly less sewing. **2:** Body can be made in its entirety, then the Fish can be sewn onto the body all around the top and bottom of the Fish. You are essentially making a solid Body all around the bust, then sewing the Fish on, making it double-thickness (fish sewn over Body).

Details on Fish may be done in surface crochet or embroidered on using chain stitch.

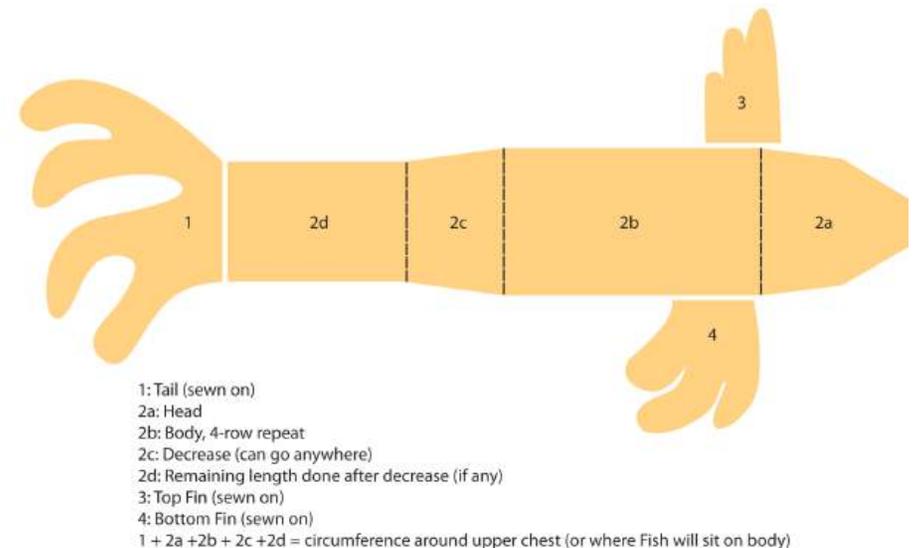
Fish body/scales and the scale outline are made at the same time by working the Right Side twice, then the Wrong Side twice, without cutting the yarns. (Right Side): scale color, then outline color, (Wrong Side): scale color, then outline color.

Examples of different straps and fish orientations can be found on final pages.

Orange Fish pictured used a 3 weight yarn that felt closer to a 4 weight. Brown Fish pictured used a 1 weight yarn that felt closer to a 2 weight. Both were made with a 4mm hook. Size of Fish will be dependent on hook/yarn used, and you can use different yarns for the Fish vs the Body.

Orange Fish head/body measures 6 inches tall, 4.75 inches wide. Orange tail measures 5 inches wide, 8.5 inches high. Brown Fish head/body measures 5 inches tall, 4 inches wide. Brown tail measures 4.5 inches wide, 6.5 inches high.

Fish does not need to cover bust, but if that look is desired, consider using a 4 weight yarn and 5mm + hook, especially for larger bust sizes.



Fish Tail:

Make the tail first, as it will help you gauge how long to make the fish head and body.

Ch 14.

Row 1: Sc in second ch from hook and in next 7 chs (5 chs remain). Sl st in next ch. (8 sc, 1 sl st)

Row 2: Ch 1, turn, skip sl st, sc in first sc. Sc in each st until one st remains. Make 3 sc in last st. (10 sc)

Row 3: Ch 1, turn, make 2 sc in same st. Make 2 sc in each of next 5 sts. Sc in next 4 sts. Sc in turning ch and remaining 4 sts of foundation ch. (21 sc)

Row 4: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 6 sts. Make 2 hdc in each of next 5 sts. Sc in next 6 sts (4 sts remain). Sl st in next st. (12 sc, 10 hdc, 1 sl st)

Row 5: Ch 1, turn, skip sl st. Sc in all remaining sts. (22 sc)

Row 6: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 13 sts. (13 sc)

Up to Row 6:



Row 7: Ch 1, turn, make 2 sc in first st. Make 2 sc in each of next 4 sts. Sc in next 4 sts (4 sts remain). Sl st in next st. (14 sc, 1 sl st)

Row 8: Ch 1, turn, skip sl st. Sc in first 10 sts. Make 2 sc in each remaining st. (18 sc)

Row 9: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 18 sts. Sc in remaining 3 sts from two rows previous. (21 sc)

Row 10: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 17 sts. Sl st in next st. (17 sc, 1 sl st)

Row 11: Ch 1, turn, skip sl st. Sc in first 12 sts. Sl st in next st. (12 sc, 1 sl st)

Row 12: Ch 1, turn, skip sl st. Sc in next 6 sts. Sl st in next sc. (6 sc, 1 sl st)

Row 13: Ch 1, turn, skip sl st. Sc in next 6 sts. Sc in remaining 4 sts from 2 rows previous. (10 sc)

Row 14: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 7 sts. (7 sc)

Row 15: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 7 sts. (7 sc)

Row 16: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 6 sts. Make 2 sc in next st, ch 9. (8 sc, 1 ch-9)

Up to Row 16:



Row 17: Turn, sc in second ch from hook and in remaining 7 chs. Sc in next 4 sts. Sl st in next st. (12 sc, 1 sl st)

Row 18: Ch 1, turn, skip sl st. Sc in next 11 sts. Make 3 sc in last st, ch 8. (14 sc, 1 ch-8)

Row 19: Turn, sc in second ch from hook and in remaining 6 chs. Sc in next 14 sts. Sc in remaining 3 sts from two rows previous. (24 sc)

Row 20: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 7 sts. (2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st) three times. Sc in remaining 11 sts. (18 sc, 9 hdc)

Row 21: Ch 1, turn, skip first sc. Sc in next 3 sts. (2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st) three times. Hdc in next 10 sts. Sc in next 2 sts (5 sts remain). Sl st in next st. (5 sc, 19 hdc, 1 sl st)

Row 22: Ch 1, turn, skip sl st. Sc in next 3 sts. (2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st) three times. Sc in next 4 sts, ch 6. (7 sc, 9 hdc, 1 ch-6)

Row 23: Turn, sc in second ch from hook and in remaining 4 chs. Sc in next 16 sts. Sc in remaining 4 sts from two rows previous. (25 sc)

Row 24: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 8 sts. (2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st) three times. Sc in next 3 sts. (Sc 2-tog) twice. Sc in next 3 sts. Make 3 sc in last st. (19 sc, 9 hdc)

Row 25: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 5 sts. (Sc 2-tog) twice. Sc in each remaining st. (26 sc)

Row 26: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 3 sts. Hdc in next 4 sts. Make 3 hdc in next st. (3 sc, 7 hdc)

Row 27: Ch 1, turn, make 3 hdc in same st. Hdc in next 3 sts. Sc in remaining 6 sts. (6 sc, 6 hdc)

Row 28: Ch 1, spin Tail to work across flat raw edge. Make 15 sc across flat raw edge, working into row sides. Cut yarn, leaving a long yarn tail for sewing Tail onto Fish Body.

Completed Tail:



Fish Head & Body:

Total length of Fish should wrap around upper chest and just barely touch, or almost touch (nose -> tail), always considering the stretch of your yarn. It may be helpful to use stitch markers to pin/position nose to tail before starting on lower Body.

Ch 6.

Row 1: Sc in second ch from hook and in each remaining ch. Mark as Right Side. (5 sc)

Row 2: Ch 1, turn, make 2 sc in same st. Sc in each st until one st remains. Make 2 sc in last st. (7 sc)

Row 3: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st. (7 sc)

Row 4: Ch 1, turn, make 2 sc in same st. Sc in each st until one st remains. Make 2 sc in last st. (9 sc)

Row 5: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st. (9 sc)

Row 6: Ch 1, turn, make 2 sc in same st. Sc in each st until one st remains. Make 2 sc in last st. (11 sc)

Row 7: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st. (11 sc)

Next rows will increase on every row.

Rows 8-14: Repeat Row 6 seven times. Each consecutive row will have two more sc than previous row. Row 14 will have 25 sc and will be a Wrong Side row.

Next rows have no increase.

Rows 15-20: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st. Row 20 will be a Wrong Side row. (25 sc)

Next rows will create body and scales, and will be worked with two colors, alternated: the scale color and the outline color. If scales will be same color as the head (as in orange fish pictured), move on to Row 21. If scale color will be different than head color and head color will become the outline color (as in brown fish pictured), place a stitch marker to hold head color and attach scale color in first st, with Right Side facing you (outline color will be attached on same edge that held-back head color is).

Row 21: *Worked Right Side facing you, in scale color.*

Ch 1, turn, sc in same st (If new scale color was attached, ch 1, sc in same st). *[Skip 2 sts. In next st, make 5 dc (first shell made). Skip 2 sts, sc in next st]. Repeat from * across. Place marker to hold scale color in place while working outline color. (5 sc, 4 shells)

Row 22: *Still Right Side.* Join outline color in first sc (or pick up head color if using for outline). Ch 1, sc in same st. Ch 2, sc in center (third) dc of next shell, ch 2. *[In next sc, make (sc, ch 1, sc). Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2]. Repeat from * until one sc remains. Sc in last sc. Place holding marker in outline color. (12 sc, 3 ch-1 spaces, 8 ch-2 spaces)

Up to Row 22:



Row 23: *Wrong Side.* Turn, pick up scale color. Ch 1, sl st in top of first sc (of outline color). Ch 3, make 2 dc in same st, ch 1. *(Make 5 dc in next ch-1 space, ch 1). Repeat from * across to last ch-1 space. Make 3 dc in last sc. Place holding marker in scale color.
(2 half-shells, 4 ch-1 spaces, 3 shells)

Up to Row 23:



Row 24: *Still Wrong Side.* Pick up outline color. Ch 3, sc in top of beginning ch 3 (of scale color), ch 2. In next sc of **outline** color, make (sc, ch 1, sc): Work **around** the ch-1 space of the scale color, enclosing it in the scs, now and throughout. *[Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2. In next sc of outline color, make (sc, ch 1, sc)]. Repeat from * to last sc. Ch 2, sc in last dc. Place holding marker in outline color.

(13 sc, 8 ch-2 spaces, 4 ch-1 spaces)

Up to Row 24. (Sc, ch1, sc) are made **around** the ch-1 spaces between shells:



Row 25: *Right Side.* Turn, pick up scale color. Ch 1, sc in first sc (of outline color). Make 5 dc in next ch-1 space. *(Ch 1, make 5 dc in next ch-1 space). Repeat from * to last ch-1 space. Sc in last sc (of outline color). Place holding marker in scale color. (2 sc, 4 shells, 3 ch-1 spaces)

Row 26: *Still Right Side.* Pick up outline color. Ch 1, sc in first sc (of scale color). Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2. *[In next sc of outline color, make (sc, ch 1, sc). Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2]. Repeat from * across to last shell. Sc in last sc (of scale color). Place holding marker in outline color.

(12 sc, 8 ch-2 spaces, 3 ch-1 spaces)

Repeat Rows 23-26 to length desired before decrease, ending on completion of a Row 26.

The decrease happens over 6 rows (3 sets of scale + outline), and total decrease will be about the height of 3 “shell rows.” The decrease can occur anywhere: on orange fish pictured, decrease was added at mid-back, on brown fish pictured, decrease was added 8 rows before end of fish body. If you are decreasing at the end of the body (rather than somewhere in the middle), your length calculation for the decrease portion will be the height of about 5 shell rows.

Always keep in mind the length of the Tail, which will be sewn onto the end of the fish body and add that amount of length. Also keep in mind the stretch of the yarn and ease desired – it will be better to err on the side of negative ease because even if the Fish nose and Tail don’t touch exactly, a patch of crochet can be added behind this area for coverage.

Row 27: *Wrong Side.* (Decrease 1). Turn, pick up scale color. Ch 1, sl st in first sc, ch 3. Make 2 dc in same st. Ch 1, make 5 dc in next ch-1 space, ch 1. Make **3 dc** in next ch-1 space, ch 1. Make 5 dc in next ch-1 space, ch 1. Make 3 dc in last sc. Place holding marker in scale color. (2 half shells, 4 ch-1 spaces, two 5-dc shells, one 3-dc shell)

Row 28: *Still Wrong Side.* Pick up outline color. Ch 3, sc in top of beginning ch 3 (of scale color), ch 2. In next sc of outline color, make (sc, ch 1, sc). Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2. In next sc of outline color, make (sc, ch 1, sc) (*Now at 3-dc shell*). Ch 1, sc in center dc of 3-dc shell, ch 1. In next sc of outline color, make (sc, ch 1, sc). Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2. In next sc of outline color, make (sc, ch 1, sc). Ch 2, sc in last dc. Place holding marker in outline color. (13 sc, 6 ch-2 spaces, 6 ch-1 spaces)

Row 29: *Right Side.* (Decrease 2). Do not work into the ch-1 spaces at either side of the 3-dc shell. Turn, pick up scale color. Ch 1, sc in first sc (of outline color). Make 5 dc in next ch-1 space, ch 1. (Make **3 dc** in next ch-1 space, ch 1) twice. Make 5 dc in next ch-1 space, sc in last sc. Place holding marker in scale color. (2 sc, two 5-dc shells, 3 ch-1 spaces, two 3-dc shells)

Row 30: *Still Right Side.* Pick up outline color. Ch 1, sc in first sc (of scale color). Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2. *[In next sc, make (sc, ch 1, sc). Ch 1, sc in center dc of next 3-dc shell, ch 1]. Repeat from * once more. In next sc, make (sc, ch 1, sc). Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2. Sc in last sc. Place holding marker in outline color. (8 sc, 4 ch-2 spaces, 7 ch-1 spaces)

Row 31: *Wrong Side.* (Decrease 3). Do not work into the ch-1 spaces at either side of the 3-dc shells. Turn, pick up scale color. Ch 1, sl st in first sc, ch 3. Make 2 dc in same st, ch 1. Make 5 dc in next ch-1 space, ch 1. Skip **both** center 3-dc shells. Make 5 dc in last ch-1 space, ch 1. Make 3 dc in **last** sc. Place holding marker in scale color. (2 half shells, 3 ch-1 spaces, 2 shells)

Up to Row 31:



Row 32: *Still Wrong Side.* Pick up outline color. Ch 3, sc in beginning ch 3 (of scale color), ch 2. In next sc, make (sc, ch 1, sc). Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2. In next ch-1 space of **outline color, 2 rows previous** (between shells), make (sc, ch 1, sc). Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2. In next sc, make (sc, ch 1, sc). Ch 2, sc in last dc. Place holding marker in outline color. (10 sc, 6 ch-2 spaces, 3 ch-1 spaces)

Up to Row 32:



Row 33: *Right Side.* Turn, pick up scale color. Ch 1, sc in first sc (of outline color). Make 5 dc in next ch-1 space. *(Ch 1, make 5 dc in next ch-1 space). Repeat from * to last ch-1 space. Sc in last sc (of outline color). Place holding marker in scale color. (2 sc, 3 shells, 2 ch-1 spaces)

Row 34: *Still Right Side.* Pick up outline color. Ch 1, sc in first sc (of scale color). Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2. *[In next sc of outline color, make (sc, ch 1, sc). Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2]. Repeat from * across to last shell. Sc in last sc (of scale color). Place holding marker in outline color. (9 sc, 6 ch-2 spaces, 2 ch-1 spaces)

If you have made the decrease at the ending of your Fish, and are ready to complete the Fish body, skip ahead to Row 37.

Row 35: *Wrong Side.* Turn, pick up scale color. Ch 1, sl st in top of first sc (of outline color). Ch 3, make 2 dc in same st, ch 1. *(Make 5 dc in next ch-1 space, ch 1). Repeat from * across to last ch-1 space. Make 3 dc in last sc. Place holding marker in scale color. (2 half-shells, 3 ch-1 spaces, 2 shells)

Row 36: *Still Wrong Side.* Pick up outline color. Ch 3, sc in top of beginning ch 3 (of scale color), ch 2. In next sc of outline color, make (sc, ch 1, sc). *[Ch 2, sc in center dc of next shell, ch 2. In next sc of outline color, make (sc, ch 1, sc)]. Repeat from * to last sc. Ch 2, sc in last dc. Place holding marker in outline color. (10 sc, 6 ch-2 spaces, 3 ch-1 spaces)

Repeat Rows 33-36 to length of Fish body desired, less the length of the tail. **End on completion of a Row 34.**

Row 37: Wrong Side. Work only into the free sts from 2 rows previous (scale color) and around the scs at the top of shells. Work in front of the outline color, so the outline shows on the Right Side. This row will flatten out the end of the Fish body.

Turn, pick up scale color, ch 2. Dc in next dc, sc in next dc. FPsc around next sc of outline color. Sc in next dc, dc in next dc. *(Dc in next dc, sc in next dc. FPsc around next sc of outline color. Sc in next dc, dc in next dc). Repeat from * once more.
(8 dc, 6 sc, 3 FPsc)

Front and back view after completing Row 37:



The following is a finishing round that is worked all around the perimeter of the Fish body and head, with the Right Side facing you. There will also be an additional “outline” round when the Fish is assembled (see page 11). The finishing round can either be made in

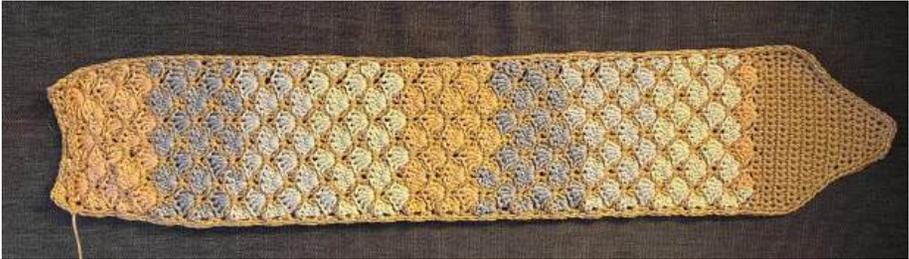
the same color as the scales (as in the orange fish, pictured page 11) or in the same color as the outline (as in the brown fish, pictured page 11).

You may cut and finish off the yarn that you will **not** be using for the finishing round.

If you are continuing from Row 37 and using the scale color for finishing: Ch 1 and turn (working Right Side facing you). Sc evenly around entire outside edge of Fish. When working the long sides of the fish, push the outline color (the ch 3s at the row sides) to the back/Wrong Side and work the scs into the row sides of the scale color. You may want to add extra scs at curves along the head to keep work flat. Join to first sc with a sl st or invisible join. Cut yarn, finish off.

If you are using the outline color for finishing: Ch 1 and spin work to sc evenly around entire outside edge of Fish (you will already be on the Right Side). When working the long sides of the fish, push the outline color (the ch 3s at the row sides) to the back/Wrong Side and work the scs into the row sides of the scale color. You may want to add extra scs at curves along the head to keep work flat. At the two end corners (the final Fish row), make a ch 1 to keep the corners flat. Join to first sc with a sl st or invisible join. Cut yarn, finish off.

Front and back view after completing finishing round:



Top Fin:

Ch 5.

Row 1: Sc in second ch from hook and in remaining 3 chs.
(4 sc)

Row 2: Ch 1, turn. Sc in first 3 sts. Make 3 sc in last st.
(6 sc)

Row 3: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st. (6 sc)

Row 4: Ch 1, turn. Sc in first 5 sts, ch 4. (5 sc, 1 ch-4)

Row 5: Turn, hdc in second ch from hook and in remaining 2 chs. Sc in remaining 5 sts. (3 hdc, 5 sc)

Row 6: Ch 1, turn. Sc in first 6 sts, ch 6. (6 sc, 1 ch-6)

Row 7: Turn, sc in second ch from hook and in remaining 4 chs. Hdc in remaining 6 sts. (5 sc, 6 hdc)

Row 8: Ch 1, turn, hdc in first 5 sts. Sc in next 4 sts (2 sts remain). Sl st in next st. (5 hdc, 4 sc, 1 sl st)

Row 9: Ch 1, turn, skip sl st. Sc in next 4 sts. Make 3 hdc in next st. Hdc in remaining 4 sts. (4 sc, 7 hdc)

Row 10: Ch 1, spin to work across flat raw edge at bottom of fin. Sc evenly across flat edge. Cut yarn, leaving a long tail for sewing Fin to Fish.

Top and bottom fins and their orientation:



Bottom Fin:

Ch 6.

Row 1: Sc in second ch from hook and in remaining 4 chs. (5 sc)

Row 2: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 4 sts. Make 2 sc in last st. (6 sc)

Row 3: Ch 1, turn, make 2 sc in each st across. (12 sc)

Row 4: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 9 sts. Ch 6. (9 sc, 1 ch-6)

Row 5: Turn, sc in second ch from hook and in remaining 4 chs. Make 2 sc in each of next 2 sts. Sc in remaining 7 sts. (16 sc)

Row 6: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st until one st remains. Make 2 sc in last st. (17 sc)

Row 7: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 3 sts. (2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st) twice. Sc in remaining 10 sts. (13 sc, 6 hdc)

Row 8: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 9 sts. (9 sc)

Row 9: Ch 1, turn, make 3 hdc in same st. (2 hdc in next st, hdc in next st) twice. Sc in remaining 4 sts. (9 hdc, 4 sc)

Row 10: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 5 sts. (5 sc)

Row 11: Ch 1, turn, make 3 hdc in same st. Hdc in next st. Sc in remaining 3 sts. (4 hdc, 3 sc)

Row 12: Ch 1, spin to work across flat raw edge at bottom of fin. Sc evenly across flat edge. Cut yarn, leaving a long tail for sewing Fin to Fish.

Sew Tail and Fins onto Fish. Components pictured here were sewn on with mattress stitch, but you can use any method. "Try on" Fish body with the Right Side facing out and mark the top of the head so correct fin is attached at top. Weave in all ends.

Orientation and placement of all components:



An “outline” will now be added around entire perimeter of assembled Fish. With Right Side facing you, join outline color in any stitch. Ch 1 and sc evenly around entire perimeter. Join to first sc with a sl st or invisible join. Cut yarn.

Add extra scs around curves to keep work flat (as in the points of fins). If necessary, make sc 2-tog in “valleys” to keep work flat.

You may want to block Fish now (optional).

Adding Details:

Add eye, gills, fin details with surface crochet or embroidery. You may also want to continue the Fish outline where the fins are attached at the body.



Surface Crochet:

Make lines with sl sts that are on Right Side of work. Start by making a slip knot, then carefully remove it from hook. Insert hook from front (Right Side) to back (Wrong Side). Grab slip knot at Wrong Side and pull it up to the Right Side. Yarn will be behind/under your work, to be pulled up to top of work. Think of your tension hand and yarn as the bobbin of a sewing machine, your hook is the sewing needle that will reach down through the fabric to grab the yarn.

Insert hook back down through the fabric in the next spot you want to bring up yarn. Grab yarn and pull it up to the Right Side and through the slip knot to create the first slip stitch.

If you normally use a pen hold, it might help to switch to a knife hold.

Instead of working side-to-side (horizontally) hold your work to crochet “up” in the direction you are going. Keep work flat and spread open.

Using a straight down “stabbing” motion with your hook to grab your yarn can also help.

Loosening your tension may be helpful.

See Tips for Surface Crochet, next page.

Slip knot pulled up to Right Side:



Inserting hook back down through fabric:



Back/Wrong Side view:



Tips for Surface Crochet:

You can make guidelines by drawing out your shape with yarn (by laying it on top of your work), then attaching stitch markers along your drawn shape.



To finish off a circle shape, stop short of the last slip stitch, cut yarn, and pull yarn up to Right Side. Thread yarn in a needle and make the last stitch by working under the legs of the first sl st, then back down through the center of the last sl st made. Knot off on Wrong Side.



Continued . . .

To finish off a line, cut yarn and pull yarn up to the Right Side. Thread yarn in a needle and make a stitch straight down to the Wrong Side, enclosing the end of the final sl st. Knot off on Wrong Side.

Needle shows final stitch:



Carefully weave in all ends on Wrong Side of work, making sure they don't show on Right Side.

Body:

First rounds are made in HBdc, for more coverage. You may replace HBdc with regular dc or hdc. To make Body separate (OPTION 2, Notes, skip to page 20). Wave repeat is a multiple of 18, if you'd like to plan ahead in the first few rounds.

To make Body seamlessly (OPTION 1, Notes):

Round 1: Make BPsc in this round when working into Fish: this will ensure that the outline is pushed to the front and not hidden by the new sts. BPsc will be worked along entire flat portion ("chin" to tail), then a chain space added at center front to join fish in a circle around upper body. Estimate chain length by measuring widest part of chest or bust and subtracting the length of the "flat" portion of Fish.

Orient Fish with Right Side facing you, and bottom of Fish at top (to work top -> down from bottom of Fish).

Join yarn with a BPsc in any st at bottom of Fish (this is where the "seam" will be). BPsc in each st along bottom of Fish. When you reach a fin, make a chain to cross behind it, in the same width as the fin, and continue to BPsc when you reach the sts at the other side of the fin.

When you reach the tail, or the last st of the "flat" portion of the head, make a chain to join that gap at the front between chin and tail. Make the chain long enough that the length of the Fish + the chain will fit around widest part of chest that Fish will cover. Part of this chain will be behind the tail.

Join to first BPsc with a sl st. Try on for fit.

First round complete (fin and tail flipped up to show chain spaces):



Round 2: (Still Right Side, do not turn this round). May switch to a larger hook for more drape, if desired. Ch 2 (first HBdc, now and throughout). HBdc in each st and ch around. Join to beginning ch 2 with a sl st.

Round 3: Ch 2, turn. HBdc in each st around. Join to beginning ch 2 with a sl st.

Repeat Round 3 to coverage desired, adding in increases to until stitch count is a multiple of 18. You may also add in decreases to reach a multiple of 18 (HBdc 2-tog).

When you have reached a multiple of 18, you can continue on to Wave portion of Body, with or without more rounds of HBdc for coverage. OR, you can make the Patch portion before moving on to the Wave. To make the patch portion now, cut yarn and continue on to Patch (page 19), then continue on to Wave Portion (Page 20).

If making the body first (rather than Patch method), go to Making Body First (page 20), then continue on to Wave Portion (Page 20).

For both methods, Fish (or just fins, if using Patch method), can be sewn to Body at any point as long as the Body fits satisfactorily. It is easier to sew the fish before the Body gets really long (especially in the case of dress length). See Sewing Fish, page 19.

Patch:

A small free-hand patch is made to cover any unwanted open areas behind the nose -> tail gap, then the Fish is sewn to the patch.

Patch, Wrong Side view:



With the inside/Wrong Side of the Fish facing you, join yarn where the Patch should start. Ch 2 and make rows of HBdc to cover unwanted openings, making increases or decreases if necessary to mimic the shape of the opening you'd like covered. When Patch is complete, cut yarn and sew Fish to patch, using the same color yarn as Fish outline. See: Sewing Fish, right.

Sewing Fish:

Use same yarn color as Fish outline. With a tapestry needle and yarn, invisibly sew Fish to Body and/or Patch. Keep in mind the stretch of the garment when worn, especially if making the entire Body, rather than using the Patch method. Use several stitch markers to hold Fish in place before sewing. If making entire Body first, it will be helpful to try on Body while placing markers (or, try on after placing markers), and use loose tension when sewing to accommodate for stretch. You may also want to sew nose to tail, if they touch.

To sew invisibly, pull yarn up from back/Wrong Side to front, right next to a sc of the Fish outline. Insert needle under/through the legs of the sc, pull yarn through, and insert needle back down through to Wrong Side, right after the sc. You do not need to work through every sc.

Yarn pulled up next to sc, needle inserted through legs of sc:



Making Body First:

Make Body, or chest portion, then sew Fish onto Body around entire top edge of Fish/to top edge of Body, and along bottom edge of Fish/to Body (See Sewing Fish, page 18). You may replace HBdc with regular dc or hdc.

Measure around upper chest close to underarm, where top edge of tank top will sit. FSC a length that matches this measurement and join to first FSC with a sl st to form a circle. Wave portion of Body must be a multiple of 18, if you'd like to plan ahead.

Round 1: Ch 2 (first HBdc, now and throughout). HBdc in each FSC around. Join to beginning ch 2 with a sl st. Mark as Right Side.

Round 2: Ch 2, turn. HBdc in each st around. Join to beginning ch 2 with a sl st. Try on for fit (stitches may stretch original FSC)

Repeat Round 2 to coverage desired, adding in increases to until stitch count is a multiple of 18. You may also add in decreases to reach a multiple of 18 (HBdc 2-tog).

When you have reached a multiple of 18, you can continue on to Wave portion of Body, with or without more rounds of HBdc. Fish can be sewn to Body at any point as long as the Body fits satisfactorily and has enough length to accommodate Fish. It is easier to sew the fish (page 19) before the Body gets really long (especially in the case of dress length).

Wave Portion of Body:

See chart, page 23. Make first round a Right Side round. To make “ripples,” add in stretches of FPdc when working any **Wrong Side round**. This will push the tops of the stitches out to the Right Side. This is optional, and you can choose to just make regular dc throughout. You may also make trs in place of dcs.

Color can be changed at any time: just join new yarn in a V-st, making sure you are turning rounds where appropriate. You can alter which V-st you join new yarn in, to further eliminate the “seam.”

Place stitch markers in the ch-1 spaces of the V-sts and move them up as you work. It is easier to keep count by counting the sts on the “slope,” rather than counting the entire round: every Right Side slope (from V-st to “valley”) will have 3 sets of 2-dc groups and 5 dc separated by a ch-1 space. For every increase round, the next Right Side round will have an *additional* dc after the 3 sets of 2-dc groups.

The two dcs of the V-st are **never** worked into: they are skipped for all rounds.

Increases can be added at any time, see page 22.

Round 1: See chart, page 23. Turn to work Right Side facing you, or stay on Right Side if it's already facing you. Ch 3 (first dc and second leg of first V-st, now and throughout). (Make 2 dc in next st) three times, skip next st. (Dc in next st, skip next st) five times. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times. *[V-st in next st, place marker in ch-1 space. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times, skip next st. (Dc in next st, skip next st) five times. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times]. Repeat from * around. In first st (where beginning ch 3 is), make (dc, ch 1). Join to top of beginning ch 3 with a sl st.

Round 2: (Wrong Side, may add ripples, page 20). **Skip all dcs that make up the V-sts.** Ch 1, turn, sl st in first ch-1 space. Ch 3, skip next dc of V-st. Dc in each st to next V-st. Skip next dc of V-st. *(V-st in next V-st, skip next dc of V-st. Dc in each st to next V-st. Skip next dc of V-st). Repeat from * around. Dc in first ch-1 space (where beginning ch 3 is), ch 1, join to top of beginning ch 3 with a sl st.

Round 3: Ch 1, turn. Sl st in first ch-1 space, ch 3. Skip next dc of V-st. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times, skip next st. (Dc in next st, skip next st) five times. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times. Skip next dc of V-st. *[V-st in ch-1 space of next V-st. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times, skip next st. (Dc in next st, skip next st) five times. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times. Skip next dc of V-st]. Repeat from * around. In first st (where beginning ch 3 is), make (dc, ch 1). Join to top of beginning ch 3 with a sl st.

Repeat Rounds 2 and 3 to length desired, adding in increases if desired (see next page).

Right Side view with a ripple added. Note that the dcs of the V-sts are not worked into, and tops of dcs from previous round are pushed out to Right Side:



Wrong Side view:



Increasing on the Wave portion:

See chart, page 23. Increases are made by adding two additional dcs in the ch-1 space of the V-sts: one on either side of the V-st. It will be (dc, V-st, dc). For every increase made, the next round will have one more dc per slope. It's easiest to check count on Right Side rounds: every increase will add an additional dc on each slope before/after the three 2-dc groups. Increases can be made on *any* round, and they do not have to be made on consecutive rounds. For an even steeper increase, 4 additional dcs can be added in the ch-1 spaces, on either side of the V-sts (2 dc, V-st, 2 dc).

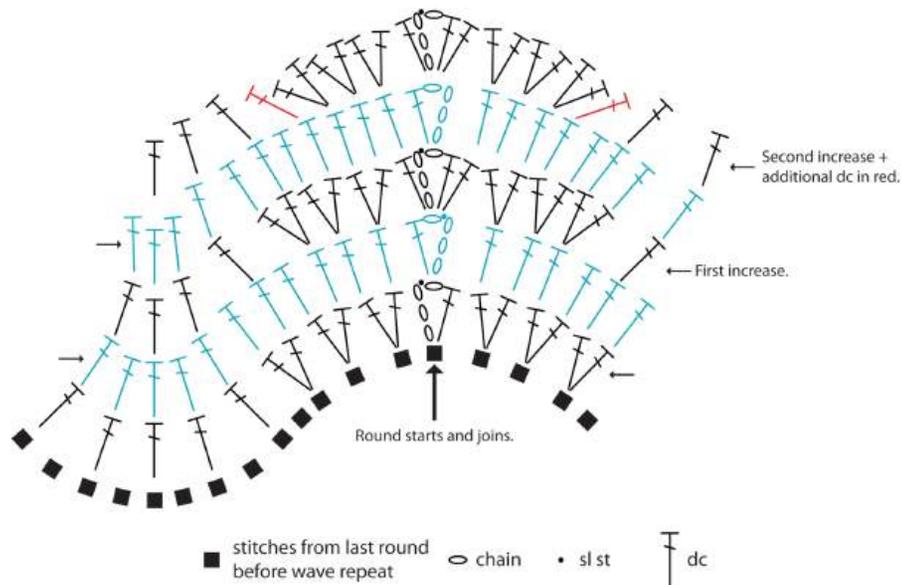
Increase (Right Side): Ch 1, turn, sl st in first ch-1 space. Ch 3, dc in same space (second leg of V-st and first dc made). Skip next dc of V-st. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times, skip next st. (Dc in next st, skip next st) five times. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times. Skip next dc of V-st. *[(Dc, V-st, dc) in ch-1 space of next V-st st. Skip next dc of V-st. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times, skip next st. (Dc in next st, skip next st) five times. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times. Skip next dc of V-st]. Repeat from * around. In first st (where beginning ch 3 is), make (2 dc, ch 1). Join to top of beginning ch 3 with a sl st. *Next Right Side round will have one more dc after the three 2-dc groups.*

Increase (Wrong Side): Ch 1, turn, sl st in first ch-1 space. Ch 3, dc in same space (second leg of V-st and first dc made). Skip next dc of V-st. Dc in each st to next V-st. Skip next dc of V-st. *(V-st in next V-st, skip next dc of V-st. Dc in each st to next V-st. Skip next dc of V-st). Repeat from * around. In first st (where beginning ch 3 is), make (2 dc, ch 1). Join to top of beginning ch 3 with a sl st.

If adding increases on Right and Wrong Side rounds, next Right Side round will have two more dcs after the three 2-dc groups.

Example showing additional dcs: *This example shows the first Right Side round after the first increase on a previous round. This example also has an increase at the V-sts. Ch 1, turn, sl st in first ch-1 space. Ch 3, dc in same space. Skip next dc of V-st. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times. **Dc in next st**, skip next st. (Dc in next st, skip next st) five times. **Dc in next st**. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times. Skip next dc of V-st. *[(Dc, V-st, dc) in ch-1 space of next V-st st. Skip next dc of V-st. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times. **Dc in next st**, skip next st. (Dc in next st, skip next st) five times. **Dc in next st**. (Make 2 dc in next st) three times. Skip next dc of V-st]. Repeat from * around. In first st (where beginning ch 3 is), make (2 dc, ch 1). Join to top of beginning ch 3 with a sl st.*

Every time an increase is added, an additional dc (shown in bold, above) will be placed before/after the three 2-dc groups on the next Right Side round. So, for the next Right Side round after the second increase, that round will have 2 dc before and after the three 2-dc groups (“**Dc in next 2 sts**, skip next st. (Dc in next st, skip next st) five times. **Dc in next 2 sts.**”)



Straps:

Cords consisting of a chain + sl sts are added for straps. For wide straps, make a long skinny rectangle with rows of sc (in strap length desired), and sew onto top and behind Fish components. Place markers to show where you'd like the straps to be connected at the front and back of top.

For straps that tie together at shoulders:

With Right Side facing you, join yarn in a marked st with a BPs1st. Chain a length that is as long as you'd like first tie to be, plus 3-4 inches (chain will shrink after sl sts are made). Keep in mind the additional length needed to tie a bow. Sl st in second ch from hook and in each ch across. BPs1st in next sc of top. Cut yarn. Repeat three more times, at marked sts, to create two ties at back and two ties at front that can be knotted/made into a bow at shoulder.

For two straps (not tied):

With Right Side facing you, join yarn in a marked st with a BPs1st. Chain a length that is as long as you'd like first strap to be, plus 3-4 inches (chain will shrink after sl sts are made). Connect chain to opposite marked st with a sl st. Sl st in next sc of top and sl st back down length of chain. Sl st in next sc of top. Cut yarn. Repeat once more for second strap.

Straps can be widened slightly for both methods above by making a sl st to next sc of top, then adding additional rows of sl sts (working back and forth in rows).

Straps can also be added in halter-style (two cords made at front and tied behind neck), choker-style (one cord made and connected at center-front, to be tied at back of neck), or a combination of any two options.





Ribbon straps sewn on, by @lilliepid



By @_manitarius



By @blairwitchcrochet



Halter style dress, by @feydead.crochet



By @rainbowjesscrafts



By @jesslovesyarn