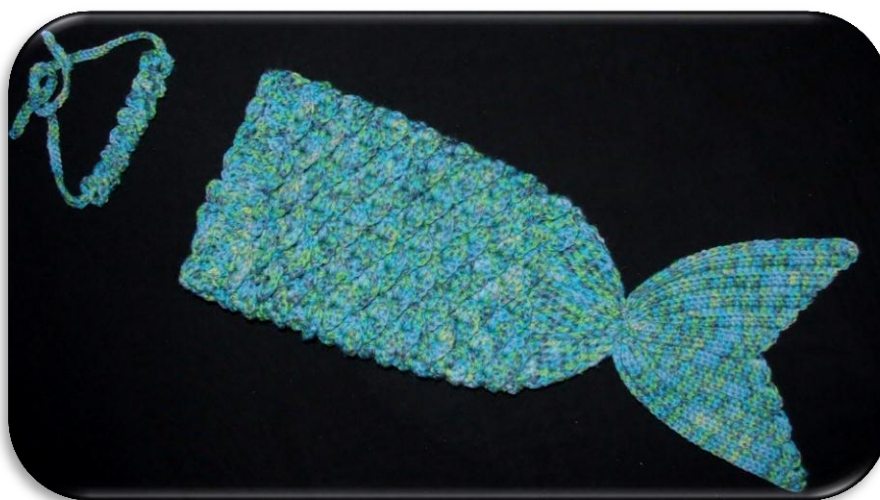




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DESIGNS
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MERMAID TAIL PHOTO PROP (0-3 MONTHS)

(WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR LARGER SIZES)



This cute little mermaid photo prop set would make a fabulous addition to any photographer's repertoire. The tail (as per the given pattern) measures 35cm (14") in length (fin not included in measurement).

The top edge, with its delicate shell trim, will sit between tummy and chest (depending on the length of the baby) and has a circumference of 35cm (16") at its widest point.

Directions are also provided for making larger sizes based on chest size and length requirements.

The scales are worked using the very popular 'crocodile' stitch and these are also featured on the matching headband.

THIS ITEM IS NOT SUITABLE FOR SLEEPING IN

Materials: Approximately 200g (360m) of double knit (8 ply) yarn.

The example uses Patons Fairytale Dreamtime DK 100% wool but you may substitute any yarn of 'similar' thickness.

Tools: 3.50mm (E) hook (or appropriate size, if substitute yarn is used) and a wool needle for finishing

Special Stitches/Methods

v-stitch (v-st): (1tr, 1ch, 1tr) into same chain, stitch or space as directed.



fptr: work the treble as usual but insert the hook from front to back **around the stem** of the stitch (right to left) instead of into the top of the stitch.



Spaced treble stitch: work the treble as usual but insert the hook into the space between the trebles instead of into the top of the stitch.

Crocodile stitch (c-st): 3fptr around RH stem of v-st (worked in a downward direction), 1ch, 3fptr around LH stem of v-st (worked in an upward direction). **Note**: It is generally easier to rotate the piece when working around LH stem.

In the images that follow, the stitch is worked in a contrasting colour for clarity.



Row of v-sts in preparation for crocodile stitch.



3fptr worked, in a downward direction, around the RH stem of the v-st.

1ch completed.



Rotate work and work 3fptr, in an upward direction around LH stem of the v-st.



3fptr worked around the LH stem of the v-st.

Slip stitch to centre of next v-st in preparation for next crocodile stitch.

Instructions use UK abbreviations. The table below lists the US equivalents where applicable.

UK abbreviation	UK term	US equivalent	US abbreviation
ch	chain		
c-st	crocodile stitch		
dc	double crochet	single crochet	sc
fptr	front post treble	fpdc	front post double crochet
fptr	front post treble	fpdc	front post double crochet
htr	half treble	hdc	half double crochet
LH	left hand		
miss	miss	skip	skip
rep	repeat		
RH	right hand		
rnd	round		
sp(s)	space(s)		
ss	slip stitch	sl st	slip stitch
st(s)	stitch(es)		
tr	treble	double crochet	dc
v-st	v-stitch (1tr, 1ch, 1tr)	v-stitch (1dc, 1ch, 1dc)	v-st

Mermaid Body:

Foundation: 4ch, ss into first chain to form a ring

Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as first treble in this and each of the following rounds), 11tr into ring, ss to 3rd of 3ch to form a disc (12sts).

Rnd 2: 3ch, (fptr around next st, 1tr into each of next 2sps - **Note:** the first sp immediately follows a fptr, and will be occupied, in part, by the stem of the fptr) 5 times, fptr around next st, 1tr into next sp, ss to 3rd of 3ch (18 sts).

You now have a disc with 6 front post trebles, each section containing two trebles. In the rows that follow, the front post trebles will remain lined up while the number of trebles between these posts increases.

The piece will have a distinct curve to it and should fold in half easily.

Working in the space between the trebles, instead of into the top, will result in a neater and more even increase (see spaced treble stitch in the introduction).

Should you wish to make the prop smaller than the given size, stop working these rows when the piece measures, (at its widest point when folded), half the desired circumference then proceed to rnd 11. Please note the stitch counts are for the given size only.

Rnd 3: 3ch, (fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 3sps) 5 times, fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 2sps, ss to 3rd of 3ch (24sts).

Rnd 4: 3ch, (fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 4sps) 5 times, fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 3sps, ss into 3rd of 3ch (30sts).

Rnd 5: 3ch, (fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 5sps) 5 times, fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 4sps, ss into 3rd of 3ch (36 sts).

Rnd 6: 3ch, (fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 6sps) 5 times, fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 5sps, ss into 3rd of 3ch (42 sts).

Rnd 7: 3ch, (fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 7sps) 5 times, fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 6sps, ss into 3rd of 3ch (48 sts).

- Rnd 8: 3ch, (fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 8sps) 5 times, fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 7sps, ss into 3rd of 3ch (54 sts).
- Rnd 9: 3ch, (fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 9sps) 5 times, fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 8sps, ss into 3rd of 3ch (60 sts).
- Rnd 10: 3ch, (fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 10sps) 5 times, fptr around fptr, 1tr into each of next 9sps, ss into 3rd of 3ch (66 sts).

The piece, at this point, will measure ~20 cm (8") across, (at its widest point when folded).

If you have a particularly tight gauge or wish to increase the size, work further rows as outlined and proceed to rnd 11. Please note the stitch counts are for the given size only.

- Rnd 11: ss to fptr, 4ch, 1tr into same place (counts as 1 v-st), *miss 2tr, 1v-st into next st, rep from * around ending with ss to 3rd of 4ch (22 v-sts).
- Rnd 12: 3ch, 2fptra around RH stem of v-st (worked in a downward direction), 1ch, 3fptra around LH stem of v-st (worked in an upward direction). **Note:** It is generally easier to rotate the piece when working around LH stem (counts as 1c-st), ss in next v-st, *1c-st around next v-st, ss in next v-st, rep from * around working the final ss through the 3rd of 3ch (at the edge of the first scale) into the v-st to pin the scale flat (11 scales).
- Rnd 13: 4ch, 1tr into same sp (counts as 1v-st), *1v-st into centre of next scale, 1v-st into the sp where the edge of the current scale meets the next scale, rep from * ending with ss into 3rd of 4ch (22 v-sts)

Rep rnds 12 and 13 until body measures ~30cm (12") ending with rnd 12. **Note:** For other sizes, stop 2" short of desired finish length. Proceed to border.

Border

- Rnd 1: 3ch (counts as 1tr), *5tr across top of next scale, 1tr into the sp where the edge of the current scale meets the next scale, rep from * around omitting last tr, ss to 3rd of 3ch (67sts).
- Rnd 2: 3ch, *1fptra around next st, 1tr into next st, rep from * around ending with 1fptra around next st, ss to 3rd of 3ch (67sts).
- Rnd 3: as rnd 2 (67sts).
- Rnd 4: 3ch, 2tr into same place, *miss 2sts, (ss, 3ch, 2tr) into next st, rep from * to last 2sts, miss 2sts, ss to base of initial 3ch.

Proceed to fin.

Fin

Side one:

Foundation: 20ch.

- Row 1: 1htr into 2nd ch from hook, 1htr into each chain to end, 2ch, turn (19sts not counting turning ch).
- Row 2: (Working into back loop only, throughout the row) 1htr into each st to last st, 4htr into last st, 2ch, turn (22sts).
- Row 3: (Working into back loop only, throughout the row) 1htr into each st to end, 2ch turn (22sts).
- Row 4: as row 2 (25sts).
- Row 5: as row 3 (25sts).
- Row 6: as row 2 (28sts).
- Row 7: as row 3 (28sts).

Row 8: as row 2 (31sts).
 Row 9: as row 3 (31sts).
 Row 10: as row 2 (34sts).
 Row 11: as row 3 (34sts). Fasten off and neaten ends.

For larger sizes, continue to work the fin, as outlined – one extra increase pair for each 1” increase in chest size. Make a note of how many rows for next side.

Side 2:

Working along the other side of the foundation chain, re-join yarn in 20th chain. Repeat the instructions for the first side of fin **from row 1** mirroring the shaping. Fasten off leaving a 30cm (12”) tail of yarn. Gather the top (straight edge) and attach to base of mermaid body. Neaten all remaining ends.



Headband

Foundation: 4ch.

Band: work 1tr into 4th chain from hook (v-st formed), 3ch, **rotating piece clockwise so that you work down one stem and up the other** (2tr, 1ch, 2tr, 3ch, ss) into v-st, *4ch, 1tr into previous v-st, 3ch, **rotating work as before** (2tr, 1ch, 2tr, 3ch, ss) into v-st, rep from * 8 times, 1dc into v-st.

Attach ribbon or crochet chain to both ends. Fasten off and neaten ends.

