

teen take & make

[maker kit]
wilmette public library

Crochet Fish Aquarium

Learn to crochet a cute fish and make it "float" in a glass jar decorated like a mini aquarium. This kit uses a crochet tutorial from Creativebug, our crafting resource.



Ingredients (Included)

You Supply:

- Skein of yarn, DK weight (Light 3)
- 4 mm crochet hook
- 2 stitch markers
- Glass beads and rocks, various colors
- Fishing line
- Googly eyes
- Polyfill stuffing
- Wide-mouth jar or another clear, round container
- Scissors
- Tape

Log in to Creativebug with the URL below, using your Wilmette Public Library card. Create an account to keep track of your progress with your email and a password you choose.



<https://www.wilmettelibrary.info/databases/creativebug>

Search "Fish Mobile" to get started. The project is by Jenny Doh. Use the video tutorial to learn crochet stitches and make your crochet fish only, ignoring the rest of the instructions on making multiple fish and creating a hanging mobile.

Watch these sections: "Overview of stitches needed", "Building the fish (increasing)", "Decreasing the fish", and "Assembling the fish". I'm including googly eyes so you can skip "Making a fish eye", unless you'd like to learn to make the eyes by embroidering French knots with black thread. Jenny Doh's pattern is on the next pages for those who are familiar with crochet already.

I recommend if you're new to crochet following along with Jenny on the video and looking at the pattern to see how it translates.

Tips for new crocheters:

Watch the videos carefully and use some of the yarn to practice the stitches (especially chaining, single crochet, and double crochet) until you feel more confident. Crochet is easy to undo (this is called frogging), and you can undo your practice stitches and use the same yarn to make your fish when you're ready.

You can watch the chain, single crochet, and double crochet tutorials here on YouTube as well, from **TL Yarn Crafts**. This is one of the best beginner tutorials I've found and goes into more details than Jenny does in the Fish Mobile tutorial on Creativebug. Toni from TL Yarn crafts also spend time demonstrating how to use stitch markers:

TL Yarn Crafts: Learn to Crochet (for real this time): Slow Step-by-Step How to Crochet Tutorial <https://youtu.be/zzWX2dx8ufc?si=oHwNCyRZhdnRUDwJ>

Use your stitch markers to mark the beginning of each row. When first starting out, it can be hard to remember where you are in your row to make sure you have the right amount of stitches. If you always put a stitch marker in your first stitch (and then move them for each row), you'll keep an accurate count of your stitches.

This pattern won't look like anything until you're halfway through it. It's fiddly in the beginning and it takes several rows for the fish shape to be recognizable. Don't be discouraged!

If you try and try and can't make your fish, contact me at khutley@wilmettelibrary.info. I'll make a fish for you for your aquarium.

Fish Pattern (Make 2):

Abbreviations: **ch:** chain **sc:** single crochet **sl st:** slip stitch **dc:** double crochet **sc2tog:** single crochet two together

Notes: Two fish-shaped pieces are made for each fish. The pair are then crocheted together to form one fish.

TO BEGIN: ch 2, work 2 sc in 2nd ch from the hook, turn.

ROW 1: ch 1, 2 sc in each sc, turn (4 sc).

ROW 2: ch 1, sc in the next sc, 2 sc in each of the next 2 sc, sc in next sc, turn (6 sc).

ROW 3: ch 1, sc in next sc, 2 sc in next sc, sc in next 2 sc, 2 sc in next sc, sc in next sc, turn (8 sc).

ROW 4-6: ch 1, sc in each sc across, turn.

ROW 7: ch 1, sc in next sc, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sc, sc2tog, sc in next sc, turn (6 sc).

ROW 8: ch 1, sc in first sc, (sc2tog) 2 times, sc in next sc, turn (4 sc).

ROW 9: ch 1, (sc2tog) 2 times, turn (2 sc).

ROW 10: ch 2 (counts as first dc), 2 dc in first sc, 3 dc in final sc, turn (6 dc).

ROW 11: ch 1, 2 sc in each dc across, 2 dc in top of beginning ch-2 (12 sc). Fasten Off.

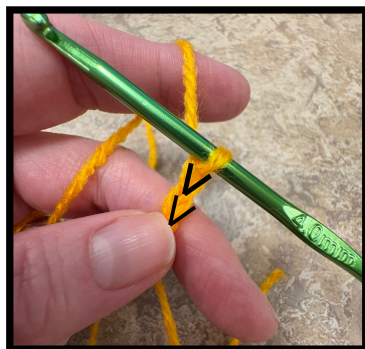
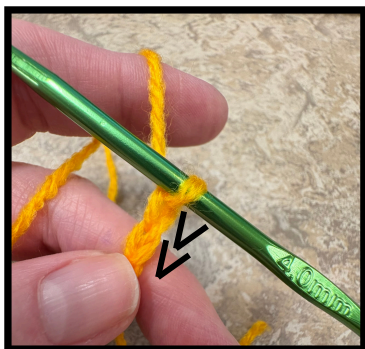
Fish Pattern (cont):

Hold two fish halves together, draw up a loop of yarn anywhere in edge of the fish, ch 1, working through both thicknesses, sc evenly spaced around, leaving a small 1-inch opening, and tucking in the tails inside as you go. Stuff with polyfill. Continue with sc evenly across opening; join with sl st in first sc. Fasten off.

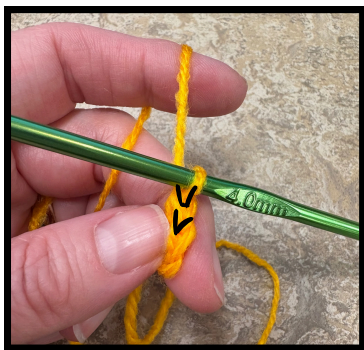
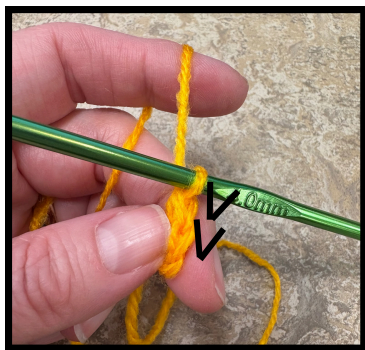
Fish Pattern (Pics):

These are for close-up reference. The Creativebug video has more details for you to follow along!

TO BEGIN: ch 2, work 2 sc in 2nd ch from the hook, turn.

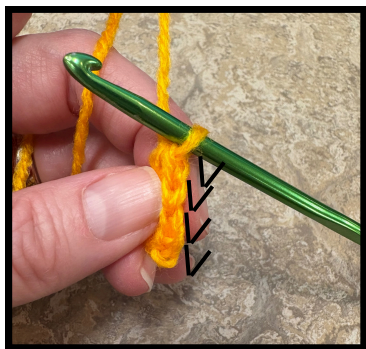


Chain 2 - you can see 2 v's. This is your foundation chain. You will work 2 single crochets into the second V.



2 SC - When you work 2 single crochet in your second V of the chain, this is how it looks.

ROW 1: ch 1, 2 sc in each sc, turn (4 sc).



After you turn your work, you'll chain 1 and do 2 single crochet in your two stitches. You'll end up with 4 single crochets, seen here. You can see in the picture that the fourth sc (the fourth V) is hard to see. This fourth one at the bottom is actually the first stitch you did. You can put a stitch marker there so you remember.



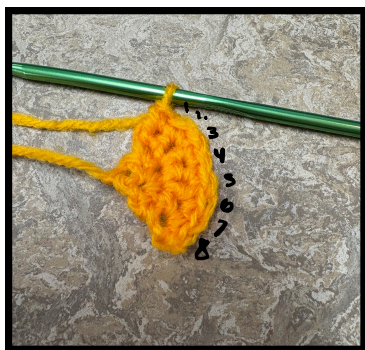
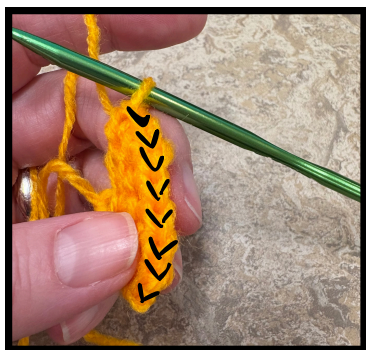
This is what it looks like from the side so far. Make sure when you're doing your single crochets, you're going under both loops of the stitch (the V).

ROW 2: ch 1, sc in the next sc, 2 sc in each of the next 2 sc, sc in next sc, turn (6 sc).



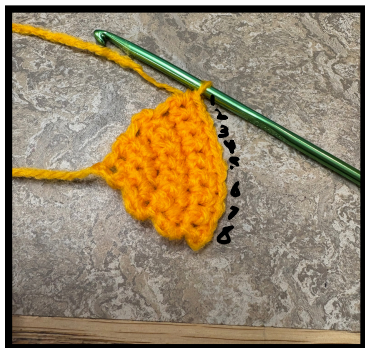
The six stitches at the end of Row 2.

ROW 3: ch 1, sc in next sc, 2 sc in next sc, sc in next 2 sc, 2 sc in next sc, sc in next sc, turn (8 sc).



The eight stitches at the end of Row 3. This is how it looks from the side.

ROW 4-6: ch 1, sc in each sc across, turn.



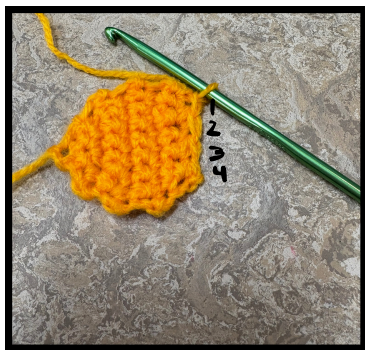
For the next three rows (row 4, 5, 6), you just do one single crochet in each of your 8 stitches. This is how it looks from the side after the three rows. You still have 8 stitches.

ROW 7: ch 1, sc in next sc, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sc, sc2tog, sc in next sc, turn (6 sc).



This is where the decreases start. You're going from 8 stitches to 6. Make sure you watch the video to see how to single crochet two together (sc2tog).

ROW 8: ch 1, sc in first sc, (sc2tog) 2 times, sc in next sc, turn (4 sc).



You're still decreasing, ending up with four stitches. This is how it looks from the side.

ROW 9: ch 1, (sc2tog) 2 times, turn (2 sc).



Look! It almost looks like a fish by this point. You're back to two stitches, which is how you started.

ROW 10: ch 2 (counts as first dc), 2 dc in first sc, 3 dc in final sc, turn (6 dc).



In this row, you're starting the tail of the fish, which is an increase, and switching from single crochet to double crochet.

ROW 11: ch 1, 2 sc in each dc across, 2 dc in top of beginning ch-2 (12 sc). Fasten Off.



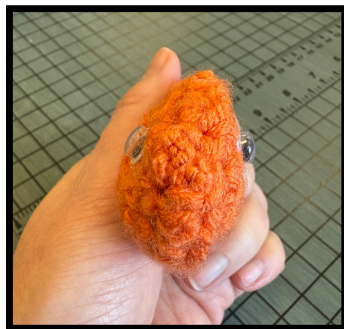
Here's a close-up of the tail after row 11, and the full fish when you're done with this half. Now you just need to make another one!

After you've made two fish halves, you'll crochet them together and use a little stuffing to pad it out. The Creativebug video is the best source for this process. I still find it difficult to figure out where to place my stitches when I join the halves together -- you just have to vibe it and be ready to undo and redo if it looks funky. But here's how it looks when finished!

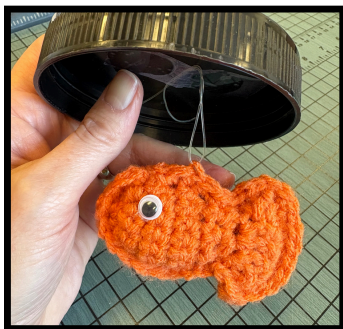
Make sure you tie the two loose ends together at the top to make it more secure. Then use your tapestry needle to weave in the ends in your fish.

For the eyes:

Glue the googly eyes on each side of your fish, trying to keep them lined up by looking at your fish from the front before fully placing the eyes. Hot glue works best and dries the quickest, but a fabric glue or tacky glue will also work. The eyes may need to be held into place for several minutes to adhere with that kind of glue.



To decorate your aquarium:
Poke or thread the fishing line through one of the top stitches of the fish, and tape it to the top of your jar lid in the center, so it dangles down into the jar.



Fill your jar with the glass beads and aquarium rocks and any other elements you want to add. Some plastic aquarium plants or terrarium plants could look good, or you could get some green yarn and look up how to crochet a plant to go with your fish as well! The patterns are out there.



Have questions or comments about our Teen Take & Makes? Email me at khutley@wilmettelibrary.info. Proud of your final product? Post a picture and tag [@wilmettelibraryteens](https://www.instagram.com/wilmettelibraryteens) on Instagram!