

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> SEE THE BEST PATTERNS

CROCHET FISH PILLOW



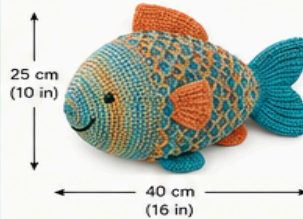
Step-by-Step Guide (US Terms)



This cuddly fish pillow is made using simple shapes and beautiful scale stitch texture. Perfect for home decor or gifts!

FINISHED SIZE

Approx. 40 cm (16 in) long
and 25 cm (10 in) tall.



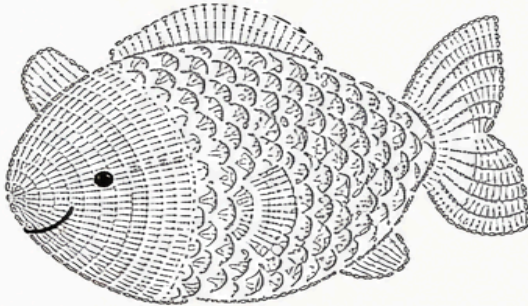
MATERIALS

- Worsted weight yarn (acrylic) in the following colors:
 - Main Color (A)
 - Color B
 - Color C
 - Color D
- Crochet hook: 4.0 mm (G/6)
- Polyester fiberfill stuffing
- 12 mm safety eyes
- Yarn needle
- Stitch markers
- Scissors

ABBREVIATIONS (US TERMS)

ch	= chain
sc	= single crochet
hdc	= half double crochet
dc	= double crochet
sl st	= slip stitch
st(s)	= stitch(es)
rep	= repeat
()	= work instructions in parentheses
* *	= repeat instructions between **
[]	= total number of stitches

CROCHET CHART



LEGEND (US TERMS)

○	= chain (ch)
•	= slip stitch (sl st)
+	= single crochet (sc)
⌣	= half double crochet (hdc)
⌣	= double crochet (dc)
⌣	= scale stitch pattern
ΛΛ	= increases (2 dc in same st)
ΛΛ	= decreases (dc2tog)
→	= work in this direction

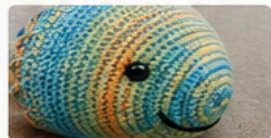
NOTES

- Work in continuous rounds unless otherwise stated.
- Use a stitch marker to mark the beginning of each round.
- Stuff firmly as you go.
- The scale stitch is worked over the base round to create the fish texture.
- Gauge is not critical, but use the same hook size throughout.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. HEAD (Make 1)

With Color A,
Round 1: 6 sc in magic ring. [6]
Round 2: (inc) x 6. [12]
Round 3: (sc, inc) x 6. [18]
Round 4: (2 sc, inc) x 6. [24]
Round 5: (3 sc, inc) x 6. [30]
Round 6: (4 sc, inc) x 6. [36]
Round 7: (5 sc, inc) x 6. [42]
Round 8–13: sc around. [42]
Insert safety eyes between Rounds 10–11, about 8 sts apart. Embroider a mouth with black yarn. Stuff firmly.



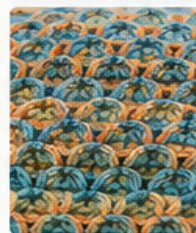
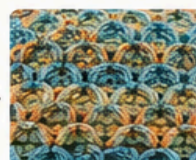
2. BODY – BASE (Make 1)

Continue with Color A.
Round 14: (5 sc, dec) x 6. [36]
Round 15: (4 sc, dec) x 6. [30]
Round 16: (3 sc, dec) x 6. [24]
Change to Color B.
Round 17: sc around. [24]
Round 18: sc around. [24]
Change to Color C.
Round 19: sc around. [24]
Round 20: sc around. [24]
Change to Color D.
Round 21: sc around. [24]



3. BODY – SCALES (Make 1)

Now we will add the scale stitch texture. Work over the previous rounds.
Join Color B in any st.
Row 1 (Scale Row): ch 1, sk 1, 5 dc in next st, sk 1, sl st in next st, *sk 1, 5 dc in next st, sk 1, sl st in next st* rep from * around. Fasten off.
Row 2 (Base Row): Join Color C in any sl st. Ch 1, sc in same st and in each st around. [24]
Row 3 (Scale Row): Repeat Row 1 with Color C.
Row 4 (Base Row): Repeat Row 2 with Color D.
Row 5 (Scale Row): Repeat Row 1 with Color D.
Row 6 (Base Row): Repeat Row 2 with Color B.



4. BODY – BACK HALF

Change to Color A.
Round 22: (3 sc, dec) x 6. [18]
Round 23: (2 sc, dec) x 6. [12]
Round 24: (sc, dec) x 4. [8]
Fasten off. Stuff firmly.



5. TAIL FIN (Make 1)

With Color A,
Ch 11.
Row 1: sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. [10]
Row 2: ch 1, turn, sc across. [10]
Row 3: ch 1, turn, sc across. [10]
Fasten off. Fold in half and sew the sides together. Attach to the back of the fish.



6. TOP FIN (Make 1)

With Color A,
Ch 9.
Row 1: hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. [8]
Row 2: ch 1, turn, hdc across. [8]
Row 3: ch 1, turn, hdc across. [8]
Fasten off. Sew to the top.



7. BOTTOM FIN (Make 2)

With Color A,
Ch 7.
Row 1: hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. [6]
Row 2: ch 1, turn, hdc across. [6]
Row 3: ch 1, turn, hdc across. [6]
Fasten off. Sew one on each side at the bottom.



8. SIDE FINS (Make 2)

With Color A,
Ch 7.
Row 1: hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. [6]
Row 2: ch 1, turn, hdc across. [6]
Row 3: ch 1, turn, hdc across. [6]
Fasten off. Sew one on each side in the middle.



9. ASSEMBLY

Weave in all ends.
Check that all fins are securely sewn.
Stuff more if needed and close any gaps.
Your crochet fish pillow is ready!



BASIC CROCHET STITCH GUIDE (US TERMS)

CHAIN (ch)

Yarn over, pull through loop on hook.



SINGLE CROCHET (sc)

Insert hook, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through both loops.



HALF DOUBLE CROCHET (hdc)

Yarn over, insert hook, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through all 3 loops.



DOUBLE CROCHET (dc)

Yarn over, insert hook, yarn over, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through 2 loops, yarn over, pull through the last 2 loops.



SLIP STITCH (sl st)

Insert hook, yarn over, pull through stitch and loop on hook.



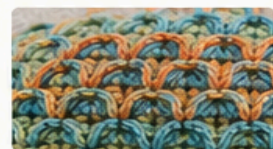
SCALE STITCH PATTERN (HOW IT WORKS)

The scale stitch is worked in Rows over a single crochet base.

Make 5 double crochet in the same stitch, skip the next stitch, slip stitch in the next stitch.

This creates the shell (scale). Repeat around for Row 1.

Next row, single crochet in each stitch to create the base for the next scale row.



Row 1 (Scale Row)

Row 2 (Base Row)



Enjoy your handmade fish pillow! Happy crocheting!



- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Crochet Fish Pillow — Complete Step-by-Step Tutorial

This tutorial follows the supplied crochet chart and step-by-step guide, using US crochet terminology throughout. The finished fish is approximately 16 inches (40 cm) long and 10 inches (25 cm) tall.

The design combines a simple stuffed crochet body with a textured scale-stitch pattern, separate fins, and a tail fin. Work carefully through the stitch counts, especially when changing colors and creating the scale rows.

Materials You Will Need

Yarn

Use worsted-weight (#4) acrylic yarn in four coordinating colors:

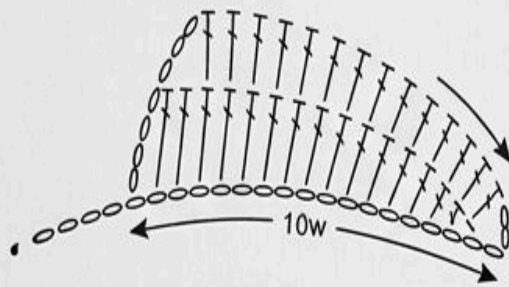
- Color A: Main body color
- Color B: Scale/detail color
- Color C: Secondary scale/detail color
- Color D: Accent scale/detail color

The sample uses bright, contrasting colors, but you can choose any four-color combination you like.

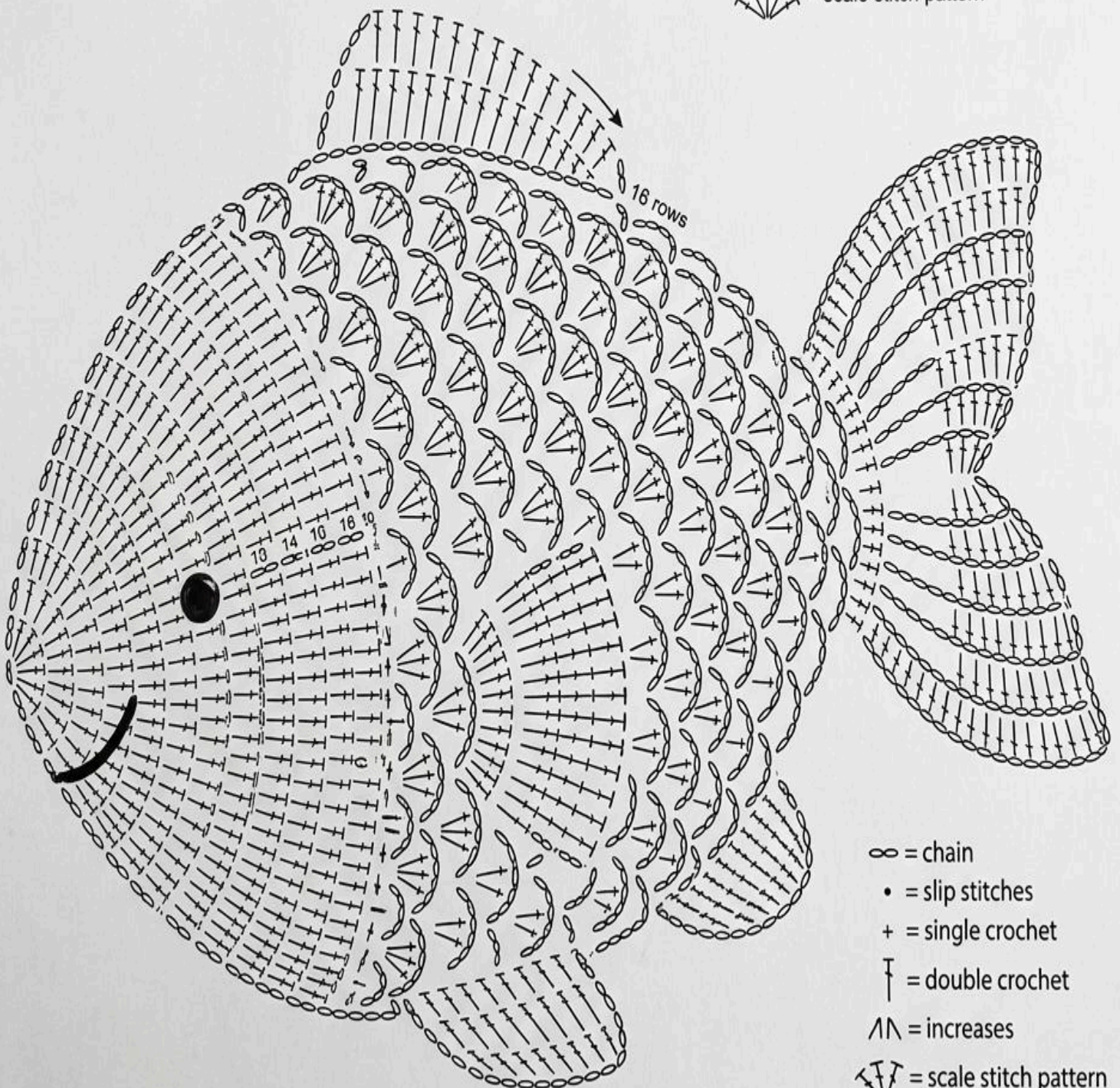
Tools and Supplies

- US G/6 crochet hook — 4.0 mm
- 12 mm safety eyes — 2
- Polyester fiberfill stuffing
- Yarn needle/tapestry needle
- Stitch markers
- Scissors

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> SEE THE BEST PATTERNS



- ∞ = chain
- = slip stitch
- + = single crochet
- ⌈ = double crochet
- ⌋ = double crochet
- ⌋⌋⌋ = scale stitch pattern



- ∞ = chain
- = slip stitches
- + = single crochet
- ⌈ = double crochet
- ⌋ = double crochet
- ΛΛ = increases
- ⌋⌋⌋ = scale stitch pattern

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

US Crochet Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
ch	chain
sl st	slip stitch
sc	single crochet
hdc	half double crochet
dc	double crochet
st / sts	stitch / stitches
inc	increase — work 2 sc in the same stitch
dec	decrease — work 2 sc together
rep	repeat
sk	skip
[]	total stitch count at the end of the round/row
()	instructions inside parentheses are worked as a repeated group

A Note About the Pattern

The fish is worked mainly in continuous rounds, unless a row is specifically given. Using a stitch marker at the beginning of each round is highly recommended.

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

When the instructions say to stuff firmly, add enough fiberfill to give the fish a rounded, pillow-like shape without stretching the stitches so much that stuffing becomes visible.

Understanding the Scale Stitch

The decorative scales are created with a small shell/fan made from double crochet stitches.

The basic idea is:

1. Work the base round first.
2. On a scale round, create the shell/fan with double crochet stitches.
3. The scale is formed by working 5 dc into the designated stitch.
4. Skip the appropriate stitch between scale sections.
5. The following base row is worked in single crochet and provides the foundation for the next scale row.

Keep your tension consistent. The scale stitch naturally creates overlapping, raised sections that give the body its fish-scale texture.

Step 1 — Crochet the Head

The head is worked first in Color A.

Begin with a magic ring.

Round 1

Make a magic ring and work:

6 sc into the magic ring. [6]

Pull the magic ring closed.

Place a stitch marker in the first stitch so you can easily identify the beginning of each continuous round.

Round 2

Work:

(sc, inc) × 6 [12]

You will increase from 6 stitches to 12 stitches.

Round 3

Work:

(2 sc, inc) × 6 [18]

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Round 4

Work:

(2 sc, inc) × 6 [24]

Round 5

Work:

(3 sc, inc) × 6 [30]

Round 6

Work:

(4 sc, inc) × 6 [36]

Round 7

Work:

(5 sc, inc) × 6 [42]

At the end of Round 7, the head should have expanded into a rounded circular shape.

Rounds 8–13

Work:

sc around [42]

Do not increase during these rounds.

Continue working in Color A so the head develops a smooth, rounded shape.

Step 2 — Add the Safety Eyes and Shape the Head

Before the opening becomes too small, install the safety eyes.

Insert the two 12 mm safety eyes into the head, positioned symmetrically on opposite sides of the face. The chart shows the eyes approximately 8 stitches apart.

Make sure both eyes are positioned at the same height.

If your safety eyes have locking backs, secure the backs firmly on the inside of the crocheted head.

Embroider the Mouth

Using a yarn needle and a small amount of contrasting yarn, embroider the fish's mouth according to the appearance shown in the reference image.

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Keep the mouth centered beneath the eyes.

Begin Stuffing

Start adding polyester fiberfill.

Distribute the stuffing evenly rather than putting a large amount into one area. Push the fiberfill gently toward the outer edges of the head so that the face remains rounded.

Do not overstuff yet because you will continue shaping the body.

Step 3 — Shape the Body Base

Continue directly from the head using Color A.

The stitch count will now decrease, creating the narrower rear portion of the fish.

Round 14

Work:

(5 sc, dec) × 6 [36]

Round 15

Work:

(4 sc, dec) × 6 [30]

Round 16

Work:

(3 sc, dec) × 6 [24]

You should now have 24 stitches.

Step 4 — Create the First Color Sections

Change to Color B.

Round 17

Work:

sc around [24]

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Round 18

Work:

sc around [24]

Round 19

Work:

sc around [24]

Round 20

Work:

sc around [24]

Change to Color C.

Round 21

Work:

sc around [24]

At this point, the body should resemble a small rounded tube extending from the head.

Step 5 — Shape the Back Half

Continue shaping the rear of the body.

Round 22

Work:

(3 sc, dec) × 6 [18]

Round 23

Work:

(2 sc, dec) × 6 [12]

Round 24

Work:

sc around [12]

Fasten off.

Before completely closing the body, check the stuffing.

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Final Stuffing

Add more polyester fiberfill until the fish is firmly and evenly stuffed.

Pay particular attention to the transition between the head and body. You want the finished piece to have a smooth, rounded silhouette rather than a hollow or collapsed center.

Once the stuffing is satisfactory, close the remaining opening securely and weave in the yarn end.

The basic stuffed body is now complete.

Step 6 — Crochet the Scale Stitch Section

The scale texture is the most distinctive part of this fish.

The chart shows the scale section as 18 rows total, made from repeating scale rows and base rows.

Work carefully because the scale stitches sit on top of the base fabric and create the overlapping texture.

Scale Row 1 — Color B

Join Color B in the indicated stitch.

Begin the scale row as shown in the chart:

- ch 1
- Work the starting single crochet.
- Work the indicated double crochet into the same stitch.
- Skip the required stitch.
- Work 5 dc into the next stitch to form the scale/shell.
- Skip the next stitch as indicated.
- Work the next single crochet.
- Continue the scale pattern around the body.

The important visual feature is the five-double-crochet fan, which creates one raised scale.

Do not pull the stitches excessively tight. The scales need enough room to open and overlap.

Base Row 2 — Color C

Join Color C.

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Work:

sc around [24]

This creates the foundation for the following scale row.

Scale Row 3

Repeat the scale-row instructions from Row 1.

Create the same raised shell/fan structure.

Base Row 4 — Color D

Change to Color D.

Repeat the base-row instructions:

sc around [24]

Scale Row 5

Repeat the scale-row instructions from Row 1.

Base Row 6 — Color B

Change back to Color B.

Work the base row:

sc around [24]

Continue the 18-Row Scale Section

The chart indicates that the scale section continues for 18 rows total.

Continue repeating the same scale-row/base-row sequence until all 18 rows are complete, maintaining the color sequence shown in the chart.

As you work, make sure every new scale sits consistently over the body. The scales should overlap in a regular pattern rather than forming random bumps.

Checking the Scale Pattern

After several rows, stop and look at the body from the side.

You should see:

- raised fan-shaped scales,
- evenly spaced rows,
- overlapping scales,
- a consistent direction toward the tail,
- and a relatively smooth underside where the scale pattern is not applied.

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

If the scales look loose, check your tension. If they look extremely tight and cannot open into their fan shape, loosen your tension slightly.

Step 7 — Crochet the Tail Fin

The tail fin is made separately in Color A.

Foundation Chain

Chain:

ch 11

Row 1

Starting in the second chain from the hook, work:

sc in each ch across [10]

Row 2

ch 1, turn.

Work:

sc across [10]

Row 3

ch 1, turn.

Work the stitches across in the curved sequence shown in the guide, using a combination of:

- sc
- hdc
- dc
- hdc
- sc

Repeat the mirrored sequence across the remaining stitches so the row remains at 10 stitches.

Fasten off and leave a yarn tail long enough for sewing.

The finished tail piece should have a rounded, fan-like shape.

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Step 8 — Crochet the Top Fin

Make 1 top fin using Color A.

Foundation Chain

ch 9

Row 1

Starting in the second chain from the hook:

hdc in each ch across [8]

Row 2

ch 1, turn.

hdc across [8]

Row 3

ch 1, turn.

Work the shaped final row according to the chart, using the combination of hdc, dc, and sc stitches shown in the guide.

Fasten off and leave a sewing tail.

The finished piece should resemble the small rounded triangular fin shown in the reference.

Step 9 — Crochet the Bottom Fins

Make 2 bottom fins using Color C.

Foundation Chain

ch 7

Row 1

Starting in the second chain from the hook:

hdc in each ch across [6]

Row 2

ch 1, turn.

hdc across [6]

Row 3

ch 1, turn.

Work the final shaped row following the stitch combination shown in the chart.

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Fasten off and leave a long yarn tail for attaching the fin.

Repeat the entire process to make the second bottom fin.

You should now have two matching bottom-fin pieces.

Step 10 — Crochet the Side Fins

Make 2 side fins using Color C.

Foundation Chain

ch 7

Row 1

Starting in the second chain from the hook:

hdc in each ch across [6]

Row 2

ch 1, turn.

hdc across [6]

Row 3

ch 1, turn.

Work the shaped final row according to the chart.

Fasten off and leave a long yarn tail.

Repeat to make the second side fin.

You should now have two matching side fins.

Step 11 — Prepare All the Pieces for Assembly

Before sewing anything onto the fish, lay all the pieces out:

- 1 crocheted fish body
- 1 tail fin
- 1 top fin
- 2 bottom fins
- 2 side fins

Weave in any yarn ends that will not be needed for sewing.

Leave the long tails on the fins specifically for attaching them to the fish.

This makes assembly much easier and keeps the finished piece neat.

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Step 12 — Attach the Tail Fin

Position the tail fin at the narrow rear end of the stuffed fish.

Center the tail carefully so that the two sides are balanced.

Use the yarn needle and the remaining yarn tail to sew the base of the tail securely to the body.

Sew through several stitches of both the tail and body rather than attaching it with only one or two stitches.

Go around the entire attachment point and reinforce it.

Once secure, weave the remaining yarn end into the body.

Step 13 — Attach the Top Fin

Place the top fin on the upper center of the fish body.

The fin should sit along the upper surface and point upward/outward, matching the orientation in the reference image.

Use the yarn needle to sew the base of the fin securely to the body.

Check the fish from the front and side before finishing the seam. Make sure the fin is centered rather than leaning to one side.

Step 14 — Attach the Bottom Fins

Position the two bottom fins underneath the body.

They should be arranged symmetrically so that the fish looks balanced when viewed from the front.

Sew each fin firmly along its base.

Make sure the stitches are strong enough that the fins will not pull away when the pillow is handled.

Step 15 — Attach the Side Fins

Position the two side fins approximately midway along the body, as shown in the reference image.

The fins should sit on opposite sides of the fish.

Before sewing, pin or temporarily hold each fin in place and look at the fish from several angles.

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Once you are satisfied with the placement, sew each fin securely to the body using its yarn tail.

Step 16 — Final Assembly and Finishing

Now inspect the entire fish carefully.

Check the Tail

Make sure the tail is centered and firmly attached.

Check the Fins

Check every fin attachment point.

If a fin feels loose, reinforce the seam with additional stitches.

Check the Stuffing

Feel the entire body.

Add a little more polyester fiberfill if there are soft or hollow areas.

The stuffing should be distributed evenly, especially around the head and center of the body.

Close Any Gaps

Look carefully around the body and all sewn areas.

If you can see an opening or gap, use the yarn needle to close it.

Weave In the Ends

Once everything is securely attached, weave all remaining yarn tails into the inside of the crochet fabric.

Trim the excess yarn close to the fabric without cutting the actual stitches.

Step 17 — Shape the Finished Fish

Give the finished fish a gentle shaping by hand.

Smooth the stuffing from the inside by pressing and distributing it evenly.

Adjust the fins so they have the same orientation as the reference.

The scales should naturally overlap and create the textured fish-skin effect.

Do not flatten the scale section. The raised scales are an intentional feature of the design.

- <https://gistblogbase.com/> **SEE THE BEST PATTERNS**

Final Result 🎉

Your crochet fish pillow is complete!

The finished project should measure approximately:

- Length: 40 cm / 16 inches
- Height: 25 cm / 10 inches

The completed fish combines:

- a rounded stuffed head,
- safety eyes,
- an embroidered mouth,
- a colorful scale-stitch body,
- a fan-shaped tail,
- a top fin,
- two bottom fins,
- and two side fins.