

Weave in ends on WS.

FISH (MAKE 8)

Use the colour of your choice.

Small Fish uses oddments of yarn only. For a larger fish, use yarn held double with a 6.5mm hook.

Using chosen colour, ch16.

Body (RS) Dc in second ch from hook, dc in each of next 2 ch, htr in each of next 3 ch, tr in each of next 3 ch, dtr in each of next 3 ch, tr in next ch, htr in next ch, 3dc in next ch, with RS facing rotate and work in rem loop of each foundation ch: htr in next ch, tr in next ch, dtr in each of next 3 ch, tr in each of next 3 ch, htr in each of next 3 ch, dc in each of next 3 ch. Do not fasten off.

Tail Ch5, dc in third ch from hook, htr in next ch, tr in next ch, ch6, dc in third ch from hook, dc in next ch, htr in each of next 2 ch, FPtr in tr of lower part of tail (at base of ch-6), ss to first dc of body of fish.

Fin 5s in each of next 3 sts, work in bl only for the rem sts: dc in each of next 2 sts, htr in next st, tr in next st, dtr2tog over next 2 sts. **Fasten off** and weave in ends.

Stitch an eye in a contrast colour on RS.

TO FINISH

Arrange wheel and fish shapes on mat, using the image as a guide.

Sew or glue the motifs in place.

CLAUDE THE OCTOPUS

Kate Hancock's incredibly detailed octopus toy is a brilliant challenge.

■ Drops Paris (100% cotton, 50g/75m), 6 balls of Yarn A Light Turquoise (02), 3 balls of Yarn B Off White (17), 2 balls of each: Yarn C Apricot (01), Yarn D Strong Blue (07)

- A 4mm (US G/6) hook
- A pair of 24mm safety eyes
- Polyester toy stuffing
- Stitch markers

MEASUREMENTS

23cm (9in) head height

115cm (45in) across, from tentacle tip to tip

ABBREVIATIONS

3-tr cluster (Yrh, insert hook in space/st indicated, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) 3 times, inserting the hook in the same space/st each time, yrh and draw through all loops on hook

4-tr cluster As above, working 0-4 times

NOTES

The pattern is worked using the amigurumi method. Work stitches continuously in a spiral without closing off each round with a slip stitch. It may help to use a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round, moving it up as you work.

The pattern involves working into chains. Make sure your chain sts are very loose in order to make working into them easier. In this pattern, when working into chains, you need to work into the bump on the back of the chain.

HEAD

The Head is worked from the top down to the tentacles.

Using Yarn A, make a magic loop.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st), 6dc into the loop. [6 sts]

Round 2 2dc in each st around. [12 sts]

Round 3 (2dc in next st, dc in next st) 6 times. [18 sts]

Round 4 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 2 sts) 6 times. [24 sts]

Round 5 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times. [30 sts]

Round 6 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 7 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts) 6 times. [42 sts]

Round 8 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 3 sts) 6 times, dc in each of next 18 sts. [48 sts]

Round 9 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 7 sts) 6 times. [54 sts]

Round 10 Dc in next st, (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts) 6 times, dc in each of next 17 sts. [60 sts]

Round 11 (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 9 sts) 6 times. [66 sts]

Round 12 Dc in each of next 2 sts, (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 7 sts) 6 times. [72 sts]





6 times, dc in each of next 16 sts.

[72 sts]

Rounds 13-22 Dc in each st around.

Round 23 Dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 7 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 25 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 7 sts) 3 times, dc2tog, dc in each of next 4 sts. [66 sts]

Rounds 24-25 Dc in each st around.

Round 26 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 9 sts) 6 times. [60 sts]

Rounds 27-28 Dc in each st around.

Round 29 Dc in each of next 3 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 6 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 18 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 6 sts) 3 times, dc2tog, dc in each of next 3 sts. [54 sts]

Rounds 30-31 Dc in each st around.

Start stuffing the Head firmly and continue to stuff as you go.

Round 32 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 7 sts) 6 times. [48 sts]

Rounds 33-34 Dc in each st around.

Round 35 Dc in each of next 4 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 5 sts, dc2tog, dc in each of next 11 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 5 sts) 3 times, dc2tog, dc in next st. [42 sts]

Mark the 17th dc on Round 36 with a stitch marker. This will indicate where the front of the Head is and help to place the eyes later.

Round 36 Dc in each st around.

Round 37 (Dc2tog, dc in each of next 5 sts) 6 times. [36 sts]

Round 38 Dc in next st, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 4 sts) 3 times, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts. [36 sts]

Round 39 Dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 4 sts) 3 times, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 5 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts. [36 sts]

Round 40 Dc in each of next 3 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 4 sts, (dc2tog, dc in each of next 3 sts) 3 times, dc in next st, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 7 sts, 2dc in next st, dc in each of next 3 sts. [36 sts]

Round 41 (Dc in each of next 8 sts, 2dc in next st) 4 times. [40 sts]

Round 42 Dc in each st around.

UPPER TENTACLES

Continue to work in the round, making a chain for each tentacle then working down the back of the chain as when working a row. Skipped turning ch do not count as a st. Continue in the round to the next tentacle. See Chart on p93.

Round 43 *Dc in each of next 3 sts, ch31, dc in the back of the second ch from the hook (the skipped first ch becomes the first turning ch), dc in the back of the next 29 ch, dc in each of the next 2 dc of the body*; rep from * to * another 7 times. [528 sts in total; 66 sts for each tentacle, including ch sts]

Round 44 *Dc in each of next 33 sts (working in the 'ch' side of the dc sts of

the previous round), dc in first turning ch, ch51, dc in the back of the second ch from the hook (the skipped first ch becomes the second turning ch), dc into the back of the next 49 ch, dc in the first turning ch, dc in each of the next 32 sts (working in the top of the dc sts of the previous round)*; rep from * to * another 7 times. [1344 sts; 168 sts for each tentacle, including ch sts]

Using a stitch marker or scrap thread, mark the beginning stitch of each tentacle in Round 45 (8 markers). This will help to join the tentacle flaps later.

Round 45 *Dc in next st, dc2tog, dc in each of next 62 sts, (dc in each of next 2 sts, 2dc in next st) 6 times, dc in next st, 2dc in second turning ch, dc in next st, (2dc in next st, dc in each of next 2 sts) 6 times, dc in each of next 62 sts, dc2tog*; rep from * to * another 7 times. [1432 sts; 179 sts for each tentacle] **Fasten off.**

BASE AND LOWER TENTACLES

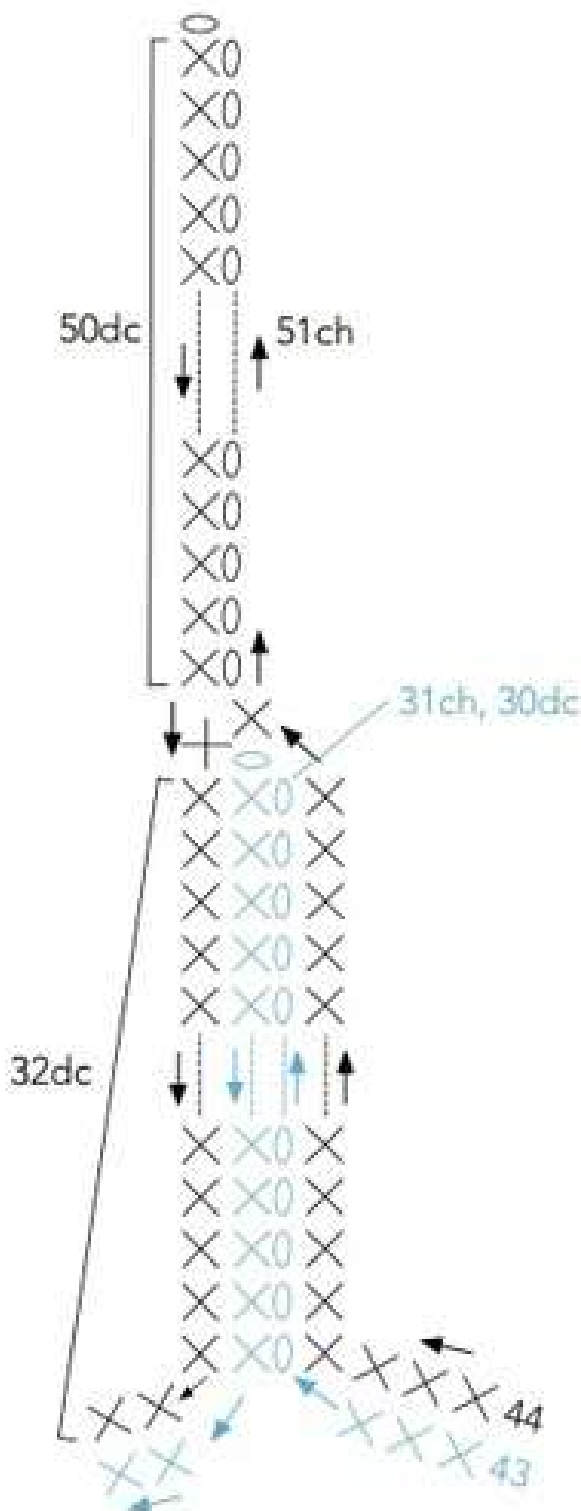
The Base is worked from the middle out to the tentacles.

You will need to change to Yarn C for every 3-tr/4-tr cluster stitch. Switch back to Yarn B for all other stitches. To change colour smoothly, start your cluster in Yarn C but when you have 4 or 5 loops left on the hook, yrh with Yarn B and pull through all 4 or 5 loops on the hook to complete the stitch. When changing colour, drop the yarn not being used to the back of your work and pick it up again when you need it,

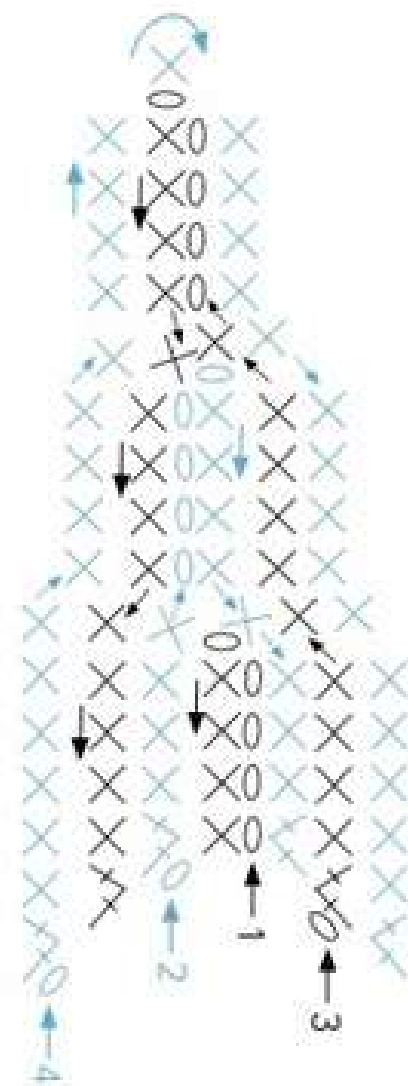
CHARTS & DIAGRAMS

Here are the stitch charts you'll need to make Claude the Octopus and the In The Pink top this month.

OCTOPUS UPPER TENTACLES, P26



OCTOPUS TENTACLE FLAPS, P27



Key

- Chain (ch)
- × Double crochet (dc)
- ∨ 2dc in one stitch
- Direction of work

Abbreviations

across	to end of the row	htr	half treble
alt	alternate/alternating	htr2tog	work 2htr together
approx	approximate(ly)	in next	sts to be worked into the same stitch
beg	beginning	inc	increase
bl	insert hook under back loop only	LH	left hand
BPtr	Back Post treble: yrh, starting from the back, insert hook from back to front to back around post of st in row below, complete as treble st	lp(s)	loop(s)
ch(s)	chain/chain stitch(es)	meas	measures
ch-sp(s)	chain space(s)	p or pc	picot
ch-	refers to ch made previously, eg. ch-3 clusters	patt(s)	pattern(s)
cl(s)	clusters	pm	place marker
4-tr cl	(yrh, insert hook in sp/st, yrh & pull up loop, yrh & draw through 2 loops) 4 times, inserting hook in same sp/st, yrh & draw through all loops on hook	prev	previous
cont	continue	rem	remain(s)/remaining
dc	double crochet	rep	repeat
dc2tog	(insert hook in next st, yrh and draw a loop through) twice, yrh and draw through all 3 loops on hook	RH	right hand
dec	decrease	rnd(s)	round(s)
dtr	double treble crochet	RS	right side
dtr2tog	work 2dtr together	sk	skip
fl	insert hook under front loop only	sp(s)	space(s)
fol/folls	following/follows	ss	slip stitch
FPtr	Front Post treble: work in opposite way to BPtr	st(s)	stitch(es)
		tbl	through back loop
		t-ch(s)	turning chain(s)
		tog	together
		tr	treble crochet
		tr2tog	(yrh, insert hook in next st, yrh and pull up loop, yrh and draw through 2 loops) twice, yrh and draw through all loops on hook
		ttr	triple treble crochet
		WS	wrong side
		yoh	yarn over hook
		yrh	yarn round hook
		*	work instructions immediately foll *, then rep as directed
		[] or ()	work or repeat all instructions in the brackets as directed

Crochet hook conversions

UK	METRIC	US
14	2mm	-
13	2.25mm	B/1
12	2.5mm	-
-	2.75mm	C/2
11	3mm	-
10	3.25mm	D/3
9	3.5mm	E/4
-	3.75mm	F/5
8	4mm	G/6
7	4.5mm	7
6	5mm	H/8
5	5.5mm	I/9
4	6mm	J/10
3	6.5mm	K/10½
2	7mm	-
0	8mm	L/11
00	9mm	M/13
000	10mm	N/15

Which hook do I use?

Hook size	UK yarn weight
2.5-3.5mm hook	4ply yarn
3.5-4.5mm hook	double knitting yarn
5-6mm hook	aran yarn
7mm and bigger	chunky yarn

HOW TO GET A PERFECT FINISH

To prevent your hard work unravelling once you've finished crocheting, fasten the end off carefully.



Complete the final stitch, then cut the yarn about 15cm from the work. Pull it through the last loop on the hook and pull to close the loop. Thread the yarn tail onto a tapestry needle and weave into the back of the work. Most crochet items don't need a lot of blocking, but cotton lace work usually does. To do this, carefully pin out the item with rust-proof pins, mist with a water spray and leave to dry naturally.

UK/US conversions

UK		US	
chain	ch	chain	ch
slip stitch	ss	slip stitch	ss
double crochet	dc	single crochet	sc
half treble	htr	half double	hdc
treble	tr	double	dc
double treble	dtr	treble	tr
triple treble	ttr	double treble	dtr