Yarnspirations™
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RED HEART

CROCHET
SKILL LEVEL
INTERMEDIATE

Designed by Nancy Anderson

What you will need:

RED HEART® Amigurumi:
1 ball 9695 Mermaid

Susan Bates® Crochet Hook:
2.25 mm [US B-1]

Stitch markers, stuffing, two 6mm safety eyes, black embroidery floss and embroidery needle for mouth, scrap of pink felt for cheeks, sharp scissors, craft glue, regular size drinking straw for leg armature, and yarn needle.

Optional: Knee high stocking and plastic pellets for weighted stuffing.

GAUGE: 32 sts = about 4″ [10 cm]; 28 rounds = about 4″ [10 cm] in single crochet (sc). EXACT GAUGE IS NOT CRITICAL TO THIS PROJECT. Use any size hook to obtain the gauge.

1
FINE

RED HEART® Amigurumi, Art E885 available in 3.5 oz (100 g) 239 yds (219m) cakes

SHOP KIT

Dia & Mia Mermaid

Get ready for adventures in the oceans or on land with Dia & Mia! They're ready to collect seashells and explore!

Mermaid measures about 5½″ [14 cm] tall not including tail, and 7½″ [19 cm] tall including tail.

Special Stitch
sc2tog (single crochet 2 stitches together) = [Insert hook in next stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop] twice, yarn over and draw through all 3 loops on hook.

Special Technique
Adjustable ring = Wrap yarn into a ring, ensuring that the tail falls behind the working yarn. Grip ring and tail between middle finger and thumb. Insert hook through center of ring, yarn over (with working yarn) and draw up a loop. Work stitches of first round in the ring. After the first round of stitches is worked, pull gently on tail to tighten ring.

Notes
1. Before beginning, separate the different color sections of the yarn as follows: Pop the center color out by pushing gently on the center of the ball so that it comes out intact. Find the point where the color changes and cut the yarn. Repeat this process for the remaining yarn colors by carefully pushing the rings of color out of the larger ring and cutting. Wind each color into a separate ball to prevent tangling. You may find that one color appears both in the center, and on the outside of the ball, wind together or separately. In the pattern instructions, the peach color is referred to as **A**, the purple as **B**, the teal as **C**, and the red as **D**.
2. Mermaid is made from 10-12 pieces: Body, 4 limbs, head, wig base, tail, tutu, sundress, and optionally two side buns.
3. Most pieces are worked in rounds. Tutu, sundress and optional side buns are worked back and forth in rows.

4. You can personalize the mermaid by selecting your choice of bikini and hair color, hair style, and clothing.
5. Pieces are sewn together using yarn scraps, yarn tails or sewing thread.
6. Yarn color is changed when working Mermaid's bikini and sundress. To change yarn color, work last stitch of old color to last yarn over. Yarn over with new color and draw through all loops on hook to complete stitch.
7. Take care to attach safety eyes before head opening becomes too small. Do not use safety eyes if toy is intended for a child 2 years of age or younger.

BODY
Beginning at top of body with **A**, make an adjustable ring.
Round 1 (right side): Work 6 sc in ring; do not join, work in continuous rounds (spiral)—6 sc.
Place a marker in the last sc worked to indicate end of round. Move marker up as each round is completed.
Round 2: Work 2 sc in each of next 6 sts and change to your choice of yarn color **B** or **C** for bikini in last st —12 sc.
Fasten off **A**.
Bikini
Round 3: With bikini color, [sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times—18 sc.
Rounds 4–6: With bikini color, sc in each st around and change to **A** in last st.
Fasten off bikini color.
Rounds 7–11: With **A**, sc in each st around and change to bikini color in last st.
Fasten off **A**.

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Rounds 12–14: With bikini color, sc in each st around.

Stuff body with stuffing or with optional knee high filled with plastic pellets. Complete piece with bikini color only.

Round 15: [Sc in next st, sc2tog] 6 times—12 sc.

Round 16: [Sc2tog] 6 times—6 sc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Thread tail through stitches of last round and pull to close opening. Secure tail and weave to inside of body.

ARMS AND LEGS (make 4)

Note: Arms and legs are "stuffed" with drinking straw cut to size. Do not stuff with fiber.

With **A**, make an adjustable ring.

Round 1 (right side): Work 6 sc in ring; do not join, work in continuous rounds (spiral)—6 sc.

Place a marker in the last sc worked to indicate end of round. Move marker up as each round is completed.

Rounds 2–11: Sc in each st around.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing limb to body. Insert straw into limb and cut straw even with top opening of limb.

HEAD

Beginning at top of head with **A**, make an adjustable ring.

Round 1 (right side): Work 6 sc in ring; do not join, work in continuous rounds (spiral)—6 sc.

Place a marker in the last sc worked to indicate end of round. Move marker up as each round is completed.

Round 2: Work 2 sc in each of next 6 sts—12 sc.

Round 3: [Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st] 6 times—18 sc.

Round 4: [Sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st] 6 times—24 sc.

Round 5: [Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st] 6 times—30 sc.

Round 6: [Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st] 6 times—36 sc.

Rounds 7–12: Sc in each st around.

Round 13: [Sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog] 6 times—30 sc.

Round 14: [Sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog] 6 times—24 sc.

Attach safety eyes between Rounds 8 and 9, about 8 sts apart.

Round 15: [Sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog] 6 times—18 sc.

Begin stuffing head and continue to stuff until piece is complete.

Round 16: [Sc in next st, sc2tog] 6 times—12 sc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail for sewing head to body.

WIG BASE

With your choice of yarn color **B** or **D**, make an adjustable ring.

Round 1 (right side): Work 8 hdc in ring; join with slip st in first hdc—8 hdc.

Round 2: Ch 1 (does not count as a stitch), 2 hdc in each st around; join with slip st in first hdc—16 hdc.

Round 3: Ch 1, [hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st] 8 times; join with slip st in first hdc—24 hdc.

Round 4: Ch 1, [hdc in next 2 sts, 2 hdc in next st] 8 times; join with slip st in first hdc—32 hdc.

Round 5: Ch 1, hdc in each st around; join with slip st in first hdc.

Rounds 6 and 7: Ch 1, sc in each st around; join with slip st in first sc.

Fasten off, leaving long tail for sewing wig base to head. **Note:** Hair instructions are found at the end of the pattern. Hair is added very last.

TAIL

Beginning at waist with **C**, ch 20; taking care not to twist ch, join with slip st in first ch to form a ring.

Round 1: Work 2 sc in same ch as joining slip st, sc in next 9 ch, 2 sc in next ch, sc in next 9 ch; do not join, work in continuous rounds (spiral)—22 sc.

Place a marker in the last sc worked to indicate end of round. Move marker up as each round is completed.

Rounds 2–8: Sc in each st around.

Round 9: [Sc2tog, sc in next 9 sts] twice—20 sc.

Round 10: Sc in each st around.

Round 11: [Sc2tog, sc in next 8 sts] twice—18 sc.

Round 12: Sc in each st around.

Round 13: [Sc2tog, sc in next 7 sts] twice—16 sc.

Round 14: Sc in each st around.

Round 15: [Sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts] twice—14 sc.

Rounds 16 and 17: Sc in each st around.

Round 18: [Sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts] twice—12 sc.

Round 19: Sc in each st around.

Round 20: Work 2 sc in each st around—24 sc.

Round 21: [Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st] 6 times—30 sc.

Fasten off **C**.

Fins

Flatten piece, with decrease lines at sides. Inserting through both layers, place a marker in the middle stitch on the top and bottom layers so that there are 14 stitches on each side of the marked middle stitches.

First Fin

Working through both layers, join **C** with slip st in the marked middle sts.

Round 1: Sc in next 14 sts; leave sts on other side of marker unworked for second fin; do not join, work in continuous rounds (spiral)—14 sc.

Place a marker in the last sc worked to indicate end of round. Move marker up as each round is completed.

Rounds 2 and 3: Sc in each st around.

Round 4: [Sc2tog, sc in next 5 sts] twice—12 sc.

Round 5: [Sc in next st, sc2tog] 4 times—8 sc.

Round 6: [Sc2tog] 4 times—4 sc.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Thread tail through stitches of last round and pull to close opening. Weave in and trim ends.

Second Fin

Working through both layers, join **C** with slip st in the marked middle sts so that you are ready to work over the 14 unworked sts.

Repeat Rounds 1–6 of first fin.

Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Thread tail through stitches of last round and pull to close opening. Weave in and trim ends.

Waistband
Round 1: With right side facing and working along opposite side of foundation chain at waist, draw up a loop of **B** in any ch, ch 1, hdc in same ch and in each ch around; join with slip st in first hdc—20 hdc.
If a two-color waistband is desired, fasten off **B** and draw up a loop of **C** in any hdc.
Round 2: Ch 1, sc in each st around; join with slip st in first sc.
Fasten off. Weave in and trim ends.

TUTU
Beginning at waist edge with **B**, ch 19.
Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each remaining ch across—18 sc.
Row 2: Ch 1, turn, working in back loops only, 2 sc in each st across—36 sc.
Row 3: Ch 1, turn, *sc in next st, 2 sc in next st; repeat from * across—54 sc.
Rows 4 and 5: Ch 1, tun, sc in each st across.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail. With long yarn tail, sew edges together for back seam, leaving about ⅛″ [3mm] unsewn at top waist edge. Weave in and trim ends.
Sash
With right side facing, join **B** with slip st in one top corner of waist edge, ch 22. Fasten off and weave in and trim ends. Join **B** with slip st in second top corner of waist edge, ch 22. Fasten off and weave in and trim ends.

SKIRT
Beginning at waist edge with **C**, ch 19.
Row 1: Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each remaining ch across—18 sc.
Row 2: Ch 1, turn, [hdc in next 2 sts, 2 hdc in next st] 6 times—24 hdc.

Rows 3–5: Ch 1, turn, hdc in each st across and change to **B** in last st of last row.
Fasten off **C**, leaving a long tail for sewing edges together.
Row 6: With **B**, turn, *ch 3, slip st in next st; repeat from * across.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Using the long tail, sew the first and last ch-3 loops together. Weave in and trim end. With long **C**-colored tail from Row 5, whip stitch side edges together for back seam. Weave in and trim ends.
Sash
With **B**, ch 25, hold skirt with foundation ch at top, sc in each ch along opposite side of foundation ch, ch 25. Fasten off and weave in and trim ends.

FINISHING
Referring to photograph as a guide to placement, use yarn tails or yarn scraps to sew the following pieces together.
1. Sew head to body, taking care to position face frontwards.
2. Sew arms to upper sides of body at Rounds 3 and 4.
3. Sew legs to lower portion of body.

Bangs: Before sewing wig base to head, embroider bangs as follows: With yarn same color as wig base, begin embroidering bangs about 2 rows above the eyes and make long stitches that will be partially hidden under the wig base. Vary the length of the bang stitches for a tousled look.

Place wig base on head, overlapping bangs by a fraction of an inch. Pin in place, for best results, and sew base to head. Weave and trim ends.

Smile: With embroidery needle and 2 strands of black embroidery floss, embroider a smile at Round 13 of head, in the middle of the face, about 3 stitches wide.

Cheeks: Cut small circles from pink felt. Referring to photo for placement, glue cheeks to face directly under and to the sides of the eyes.

Hair Version 1 (side buns)
With **B**, leaving a long beginning tail, ch 21.
Row 1: Hdc in 2nd ch from hook, 2 hdc in next ch, *hdc in next ch, 2 hdc in next ch; repeat from * across—30 hdc.
Fasten off, leaving a long tail. Roll the piece in spiral (jelly roll) fashion. With one yarn tail, sew layers to one another to retain the shape. With the other yarn tail, sew bun to side of head, about level with the eyes. Repeat to make and attach second bun.

Hair Version 2 (long curls)
First Round of Curls: Join **D** with slip st in any st of last round of wig base; ch 21, slip st in each ch of ch-21 just made, slip st in same st as joining slip st (first curl made), *skip next st, slip st in next st, ch 21, slip st in each ch of ch-21 just made, slip st in same st of wig base as very first slip st of this curl (next curl made); repeat from * around last round of wig base. Fasten off, weave in and trim ends.
Next Round of Curls: Working around Round 4 of wig base (or any round desired), repeat first round of curls.
Notes: There is no need to fill entire wig base with curls as it will become too heavy and may make the head sag. To hide base and style the hair, pull a few

lengths of the Round 4 curls to the back of head and tie loosely in back. Slip stitch lengths will curl naturally.

Weave in and trim any remaining ends. Dress mermaid in outfit of your choice.

ABBREVIATIONS
A, B, C, and D = Color A, Color B, Color C, and Color D; **ch** = chain; **hdc** = half double crochet; **sc** = single crochet; **st(s)** = stitch(es); **[ ]** = work directions in brackets the number of times specified; ***** = repeat whatever follows the * as indicated.

See next page for alternate photos

Hair Version 1, Skirt

Hair Version 2, with tutu