

Crochet Pupfish Pattern

Pattern by: Abby Miller

The Remarkable Story of a Pupfish Hero:

Pupfishes are hardy, frolicsome (like puppies!) little fishes that actually live in the desert, even in Death Valley, the hottest, lowest, and driest place in the United States. But pupfishes in their Mojave Desert region are in danger of going extinct. One species, the Owens pupfish, would already be extinct if it weren't for one brave biologist, Edwin "Phil" Pister. In 1969, when their last and only pond was suddenly drying up, Phil Pister scooped up every Owens pupfish on Earth into buckets in near darkness and by himself, and he drove them to safe water.



Abby Miller drew inspiration for this fun and beautiful pattern from the Owen "pup," and she chose a metallic yarn to represent the male pupfish, which has light, iridescent blue scales, like gems! If you'd like your pup to resemble the critically endangered Devils Hole pupfish, consider finding darker "electric" blue yarn. Or, try crocheting a female pupfish: equally adorable with silvery and brown scales.

— Elaine Miller Bond, author of *The Pupfish Hero*
www.elainemillerbond.com

Pattern Overview:

- ★ This pattern is loosely based on [Crochet a fish without sewing! · Mosaic Goldfish Amigurumi Crochet Pattern Tutorial](#)
- ★ Each row is worked in one after another with no slip stitches
- ★ Please feel free to make your pupfish unique by choosing where and when you want to change color, what colors you use, and how high up you want your fins. As long as you follow the stitch count and general pattern you fish will turn out great! No pupfish is the same!

Stitch Abbreviations:

[16 Essential Crochet Stitches and Skills Every Beginner Should Know - Beginner Crochet Master Class](#)

- ★ SC = single crochet
- ★ BLO = crochet in back loop only
- ★ ST = slip stitch
- ★ CH = chain
- ★ MR = magic ring
- ★ Increase = two single crochets in each stitch
- ★ Decrease = invisible decrease two stitches together
- ★ () = stitch count
- ★ * = side note or recommendation

Materials:

- ★ Optional: Two different colors of yarn (I'm using light blue and tan)
- ★ Darning needle
- ★ Size 3.5 crochet hook (or one based on your yarn size)
- ★ Stuffing
- ★ 2 plastic eyes
- ★ Scissors
- ★ Optional: White yarn (for eye glow) and black yarn (for the simile)

Body:

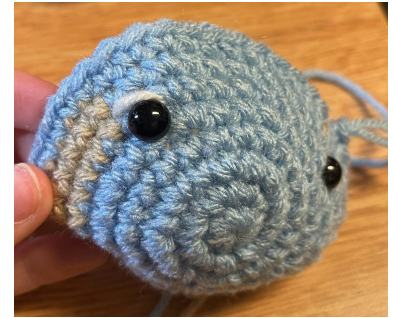
- * Starting with main yarn color (I will be using blue)
- * All done in single crochets
- * Example pictures for certain rows will be to the side of or under the pattern (♦= has an example image)

- ☐ R1: 8 single crochets in MR (8)
- ☐ R2: Increase around (16)
- ☐ R3: Increase in every other stitch (24)
- ☐ R4: SC around (24)
- ☐ R5: 2 SC, 1 increase (32)
- ☐ *starting yarn color changes
- ☐ ♦ R6: Single crochet around; switch colors after the first 8 stitches, crochet 5 stitches with your second color then switch back to the main color (32)
- ☐ R7: 4 SC, 1 increase ; switch colors after stitch 11, crochet in the next 8 stitches with the second color, then switch back. (38)
- ☐ ♦ R8: Single crochet around; switch colors after 28 stitches, crochet 5 with second color, switch back and continue the row (38)
- ☐ ♦ Insert eyes between row 5 and 6, around 9 stitches apart



- ☐ ♦ Use a tiny bit of white yarn to make the eye glimmer by inserting darning needle on one side of the eye (from the inside of the fish) and out through the other side and tie loose strands together. Repeat with both eyes.

♦ Eye glimmer steps:



- ☐ ♦ Using a small amount of black yarn create a smile using the same process as the eye glimmer. Insert hook in the back of the fish's head and weave it through to the other side and tie a knot.

♦ Smile steps:

* I encourage you to change colors however many times you would like within rows 9-13, there is no strict color change pattern, what is written is what I personally did.



- ☐ R9: Single crochet around, change color after every 8 stitches, until the start of the row. (38)
- ☐ R10: Single crochet around, change color after the first 20 stitches, for the next 3 stitches, then continue with main color (38)
- ☐ R11: Single crochet around, change color after the first 6 stitches, for the next 4 stitches, then continue with main color for another 12 stitches, change color, 4 stitches, then continue with main color (38)
- ☐ R12: Single crochet around, change color after 25 stitch, 8 more stitches, then switch back to main color (38)
- ☐ ♦ R13: Single crochet around, all with main color (38)
- ☐ R14: 3 SC, 1 decrease; change color after the first 11 stitches, crochet next 4 stitches, switch back to main color (30)
- ☐ R15: 2 SC, 1 decrease; change color after first 4 stitches, crochet next 4, then switch back to main color (24)



- ☐ R16: 2 SC, 1 decrease, all with main color (18)
- ☐ ♦ R17: single crochet all around; change color after 8 stitches, crochet next 6, switch back to main color (18) Stuff your pupfish!
- ☐ R18: 1 SC, 1 decrease (12)
- ☐ R19: 1 SC, 1 decrease (6)
- ☐ ♦ Face your pupfish towards you, fold the opening so both sides are touching. Then insert your hook in the first stitch and the one across from it, single crochet. Repeat across the rest of the opening. (6)

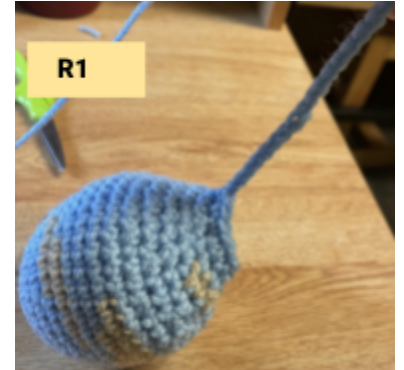


♦ Closing stitches steps:



Tail:

- ☐ ♦ R1: chain 20 from where you ended sewing the body together (20)
- ☐ ♦ R2: SC in second chain from hook and continue back towards the body and single crochet back into body; switch colors after first 4 stitches, crochet next 2, switch crochet to main color (18)
- ☐ R3: Turn pupfish and single crochet back up R2 in the BLO and skip the last stitch (17)
- ☐ R4: Turn pupfish and single crochet back down the row in the BLO, skip the first stitch; switch colors after first 5 stitches, crochet 7, switch back to main color (16)
- ☐ R5: Turn pupfish and single crochet back up R4, BLO, and skip the last stitch (15)
- ☐ R6: Turn pupfish and single crochet down, BLO, and single crochet in into the body (14)
- ☐ ♦ R7: Turn pupfish and single crochet up the pupfish 9 stitches in BLO (9)



- ☐ R8: Turn pupfish and single crochet down the pupfish, skipping the first stitch, and single crochet back into same body stitch as R7
- ☐ R9: Turn pupfish and crochet back up 6 stitches then immediately chain 6 (12)
- ☐ R10: Turn pupfish and crochet back down, then single crochet back into the same stitch as R9 in the body.
- ☐ R12: Turn pupfish and crochet back up 12 stitches in BLO, chain 4 (16)
- ☐ R13: Turn pupfish and crochet back down in BLO skipping the first stitch and single crocheting back into next stitch in the body; switch colors after the first 4 stitches, crochet 4, then switch back to main color (15)
- ☐ R14: Turn pupfish and single crochet back up 15 stitches in BLO then chain 4 (19)
- ☐ ♦ R15: Turn pupfish and single crochet back down in BLO, skipping the first stitch then slip stitch into last body stitch (18)
- ☐ Cut yarn and sew in loose pieces of yarn



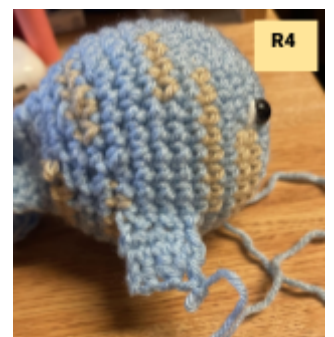
Fins (x2):

- ☐ ♦ R1: Attach hook around row 11 in the middle of the fishes side and chain 1 then single crochet 1 in the same stitch. Insert hook in the next row to the left of the first, single crochet 1 and repeat twice more going towards the left (4)

♦ R1 Steps:



- ☐ R2-3: Chain 1 and turn work, single crochet across all four (4)
- ☐ ♦ R4: Chain 1 and turn work, 1 single crochet into first stitch, 1 decrease, single crochet in last stitch (3)
- ☐ R5: Chain 1 and turn work, single crochet across (3)
- ☐ R6: Chain 1 and turn work, 1 single crochet, decrease (2)
- ☐ R7: Chain 1 and turn work, decrease (1)
- ☐ ♦ R8: Chain 1 and slip stitch into last stitch, chain 1 and tie off yarn and weave in fin



- ☐ ♦ For fin #2 repeat steps starting with row 11 on the other side, around 22 stitches from the other fin.
- ☐ Weave in and cut any lose yarn



Your pupfish is officially complete! Don't forget every pupfish is unique!

