

Ocean Hanging Decor

A printable crochet workshop • U.S. crochet terminology

Create a coastal decoration with striped fish, padded starfish and optional sea-inspired accents. Build four coordinated strands, then adjust the arrangement to your space.



Your project at a glance

Level: confident beginner / intermediate. **Sample layout:** 4 strands, 80 cm (31½ in) long, on a 45 cm (17¾ in) rod. **Core pieces:** 8 fish and 8 stars.

Original written construction inspired by the supplied photos. Measurements are estimates and depend on gauge. This pattern has not been physically test-crocheted. The 3D images illustrate assembly; follow the written counts for stitching.



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01 Materials & sizing

Prepare one coordinated set before beginning

Item	Suggested amount / specification
Cotton yarn	DK / light weight cotton: about 150-200 g total (roughly 375-500 m). Divide among navy, blue, turquoise, pale blue and white. Buy extra for a denser display.
Hook	Start with 2.5-3.0 mm. Use a hook that produces firm fabric with no visible stuffing.
Filling & tools	20-30 g polyester stuffing, tapestry needle, scissors, stitch markers, ruler and pins.
Cord & beads	About 5 m of strong 1-1.5 mm braided cord; 40-60 lightweight beads, approximately 8-14 mm, with holes that fit your cord.
Hanging support	45 cm (17¾ in) wooden rod; 4 closed rings or secure hooks; suitable mounting hardware.
Eyes	Dark embroidery yarn. Embroidered eyes keep the design simple and secure.

Gauge and expected sizes

Target gauge: approximately **24 sc and 26 rounds = 10 cm (4 in)** in single crochet. Make a small swatch and measure the central stitches without stretching. Gauge is a sizing guide, not a fit requirement.

Fish: about 10-12 cm (4-4¾ in) including tail. **Starfish:** about 10-11 cm (4-4■ in) across. **Sphere:** about 3 cm (1¼ in). **Leaf:** about 4-5 cm (1½-2 in).

Make one fish and one star first. Measure and weigh them before making the full set. Keep the same yarn weight and hook throughout; changing only the hook can make stuffing visible.



02 Stitches & working method

Read once, then keep this page beside your work

Abbreviation	U.S. meaning
MR / ch / sl st	Magic ring / chain / slip stitch
sc / hdc / dc	Single crochet / half double crochet / double crochet
inc	Work 2 sc in the same stitch. Adds 1 stitch.
dec	Invisible single crochet decrease over the next 2 stitches. Removes 1 stitch.
sc2tog	Single crochet 2 stitches together; used for flat rows.
R / st(s)	Round or row / stitch(es)
(...) × n / [n]	Repeat the instructions n times / total stitches when complete.

Spiral rounds

Unless told otherwise, work continuously without joining or turning. Mark the first stitch of each round and move the marker upward. Count stitches before proceeding. Beginning chains do not count as stitches.

Three essential techniques

Magic ring: wrap yarn into a loop, insert hook, pull up a loop and ch 1. Work the stated number of sc into the ring; pull the tail to close. Secure the tail by weaving it through the inside stitches.

Invisible decrease: insert hook through the front loop of each of the next 2 stitches, yarn over and draw through both front loops; yarn over and draw through the 2 loops on the hook.

Color change: complete the last pull-through of the preceding stitch with the new color. Leave 10 cm (4 in) tails and weave them inside. A small step at the stripe join is normal in spiral crochet.

Flat-row decrease: insert hook, yarn over and pull up a loop in each of the next 2 stitches; yarn over and draw through all 3 loops. Ch 1 and turn only where instructed.



03 Striped fish body

Make 8 • one stuffed oval per fish, worked from nose to tail

Begin in navy. The starting ring becomes the nose. Leave the tail opening at the opposite end. Place stripes by round using the color guide below.

Round	Instruction and count
R1	6 sc in MR. [6]
R2	inc × 6. [12]
R3	(sc, inc) × 6. [18]
R4	(2 sc, inc) × 6. [24]
R5	(3 sc, inc) × 6. [30]
R6-R12	sc in every st, 7 rounds. [30 each round]
R13	(3 sc, dec) × 6. [24]
R14	sc in every st. [24]
R15	(2 sc, dec) × 6. [18]
R16	(sc, dec) × 6. [12]
R17	dec × 6. [6]

Stripe guide: R1-R5 navy; R6-R7 pale blue; R8 white; R9-R10 turquoise; R11 white; R12-R13 blue; R14-R17 navy. Swap colors between fish while keeping the counts unchanged.

Stuff, close and embroider

Begin filling after R14. Add small tufts evenly and keep the body slightly oval. Finish filling before R17. Cut yarn, thread through the front loops of the final 6 stitches, pull closed and bury the tail.

Embroider a small dark eye on each side near R3-R4. Add a short curved mouth if desired. Secure the embroidery inside the body; avoid long loose surface stitches.



04 Tail & fins

Make these pieces in a contrasting blue for each fish

Tail: one flat widening triangle

Ch 3. **Row 1:** sc in 2nd ch from hook and next ch. [2] Ch 1, turn. **Row 2:** inc in each st. [4] Ch 1, turn. **Row 3:** inc, 2 sc, inc. [6] Ch 1, turn. **Row 4:** inc, 4 sc, inc. [8] Ch 1, turn. **Row 5:** inc, 6 sc, inc. [10]

Fasten off with a 25 cm (10 in) tail. The narrow 2-stitch end attaches to the closed rear of the body. The wide 10-stitch edge faces outward. Pin in place, then sew through the narrow edge and several body stitches twice. Keep the tail in the vertical plane of the fish.

Dorsal fin: one triangle

Ch 5. **Row 1:** sc in 2nd ch from hook and next 3 ch. [4] Ch 1, turn. **Row 2:** sc2tog, 2 sc. [3] Ch 1, turn. **Row 3:** sc2tog, sc. [2] Ch 1, turn. **Row 4:** sc2tog. [1] Fasten off, leaving a sewing tail.

Sew the 4-stitch foundation edge along the top of the fish, approximately over R8-R12. The pointed end stands above the body. Sew a second pass to keep the fin upright.

Side fins: make two small triangles

Ch 4. **Row 1:** sc in 2nd ch from hook and next 2 ch. [3] Ch 1, turn. **Row 2:** sc2tog, sc. [2] Ch 1, turn. **Row 3:** sc2tog. [1] Fasten off with a sewing tail.

Sew one 3-stitch foundation edge to each side around R8-R10, below the midline. Point the tips slightly backward. These fins are unstuffed. For an optional bottom fin, make one more side fin and sew it along the underside.

Before repeating

Check that the nose and tail align, the fins are secure and the fish hangs horizontally. Test by passing temporary thread through the upper center of the body. Shift this position slightly toward the heavier end until the fish balances.



05 Padded starfish

Make 8 stars • each star uses two identical five-point panels

Center disk: make two

R1: 5 sc in MR. [5]

R2: inc × 5. [10]

R3: (sc, inc) × 5. [15]

R4: (2 sc, inc) × 5. [20]

R5: (3 sc, inc) × 5. [25]

R6: (4 sc, inc) × 5. [30]

Five points: work back and forth

Divide the 30 stitches into **five consecutive groups of 6**. Mark the first stitch of each group. Work the first point directly from the active yarn. Each later point begins by attaching fresh yarn in the first unused stitch of the next group.

Point row	Work into one group only
Row 1	6 sc over the next 6 disk stitches. [6] Ch 1, turn.
Row 2	sc2tog, 2 sc, sc2tog. [4] Ch 1, turn.
Row 3	sc across. [4] Ch 1, turn.
Row 4	sc2tog twice. [2] Ch 1, turn.
Row 5	sc across. [2] Ch 1, turn.
Row 6	sc2tog. [1] Fasten off.

Repeat for all five groups. Each disk stitch is used once for a point base. Weave in the ends on the wrong side. Make the second panel with the same yarn, hook and tension.

Join and lightly stuff

Place wrong sides together and match all five points. With a long yarn tail, whipstitch corresponding edge loops and row ends, starting in a valley. Sew around four points, adding a tiny amount of filling to each tip as you go. Lightly pad the center, then finish the fifth point and close the seam.

Keep the star soft and relatively flat; excess filling rounds off the tips. Do not pull the joining yarn tight enough to curl the edges. Secure and bury the final tail.



06 Optional ocean accents

Use these as substitutes for a fish or star, keeping the total weight light

Small crochet sphere

R1: 6 sc in MR. [6] **R2:** inc × 6. [12] **R3:** (sc, inc) × 6. [18] **R4-R6:** sc around. [18] **R7:** (sc, dec) × 6. [12] Stuff lightly. **R8:** dec × 6. [6] Thread through remaining front loops and close. Do not insert a hard bead inside.

Elongated sea drop

R1: 4 sc in MR. [4] **R2:** (sc, inc) × 2. [6] **R3:** (sc, inc) × 3. [9] **R4:** (2 sc, inc) × 3. [12] **R5:** (3 sc, inc) × 3. [15] **R6-R8:** sc around. [15] **R9:** (3 sc, dec) × 3. [12] **R10:** (2 sc, dec) × 3. [9] Add filling. **R11:** (sc, dec) × 3. [6] **R12:** dec × 3. [3] Close and bury the tail.

Flat seaweed leaf

Ch 11. Beginning in the 2nd ch from hook, work **sl st, sc, hdc, dc in each of the next 5 ch, hdc, 3 sc in the final ch**. Rotate to work along the unused underside loops of the foundation chain. Skip the final chain already used for the 3-sc tip; work **hdc, dc in each of the next 5 ch, hdc, sc, sl st**. Join to the first sl st. Fasten off and weave in ends.

This makes 21 worked stitches around the foundation (not counting the joining sl st). Pin flat and damp-block. Let dry fully. Sew the leaf firmly to a motif or cord at two points so it cannot spin loose.

Small fan shell appliqué

Row 1: work 6 sc in MR; leave arranged as a semicircle. [6] Ch 1, turn. **Row 2:** inc in each st. [12] Ch 2, turn; this ch does not count. **Row 3:** 2 dc in each st. [24] Fasten off. Close and secure the starting ring. Block into a fan and sew onto a fish or use two fans joined around their edges with a little filling.

These are optional written variations. The supplied reference sheet also shows other shapes; those drawings are not additional fully specified patterns.



07 Assemble the strands

Lay out the entire arrangement before cutting or knotting

A balanced four-strand layout

Strand	Top to bottom
1	Star - fish - star - fish
2	Fish - star - fish - star
3	Star - fish - star - fish
4	Fish - star - fish - star

Cut **four lengths of cord, each 120 cm (47¼ in)**. This gives knotting allowance for an approximately 80 cm (31½ in) finished strand. Keep extra cord until the arrangement has been checked.

Thread from bottom to top

1. Tie a firm doubled stopper knot about 10 cm (4 in) from one end. Add a bottom bead that cannot pass over the knot. If the bead hole is too large, choose another bead or a larger stopper knot.
2. Thread the cord onto a blunt tapestry needle. Pass upward through the first motif. On fish, enter the belly and exit the back near the balance point. On stars, enter near the lower center and exit through the upper point. Do not split the yarn strands.
3. Add beads above the motif. Support each bead group or motif with a stopper knot beneath it so the pieces do not slide into a pile. Leave approximately 3-6 cm (1¼-2 in) of visible cord between motifs, adjusting for their actual size.
4. Add the remaining motifs in order. Lay the strand straight and measure from the top hanging loop to the bottom bead. Move un-tightened knots until the overall length is about 80 cm (31½ in).
5. Tie a secure doubled loop through a closed hanging ring. Pull firmly to set the knot. Hang temporarily, check balance, then secure knots and trim excess only after the strand stays stable.

Mount the set

Space the four strands approximately 10 cm (4 in) apart along the rod, leaving about 7.5 cm (3 in) at each end. Use mounting hardware suited to the support and finished weight. Keep the decoration away from flames, cooking heat and busy walkways.



08 Finishing & chart guide

Final checks and an English key for the supplied reference sheet

Inspect before display

Pull gently on every fin, tail, joining seam, bead group and hanging loop. Reinforce loose attachments. Make sure there are no exposed filling gaps. If a fish tilts, reposition the cord passage toward the heavier end. If a star curls, loosen the seam or remove a little stuffing.

This is a decorative hanging, not a toy or crib mobile. Long cords and small beads must stay out of reach of children and pets. Never place it above a crib, bed or play area.

Care and printing

Dust gently with a soft brush. Spot-clean crochet with mild soap and cool water; support the shapes while drying flat. Remove hardware before any washing and follow the yarn label. Print this PDF on A4 or U.S. Letter using Fit to printable area. The stitch sheet is a visual reference, not a life-size template.

English translation of the diagram labels

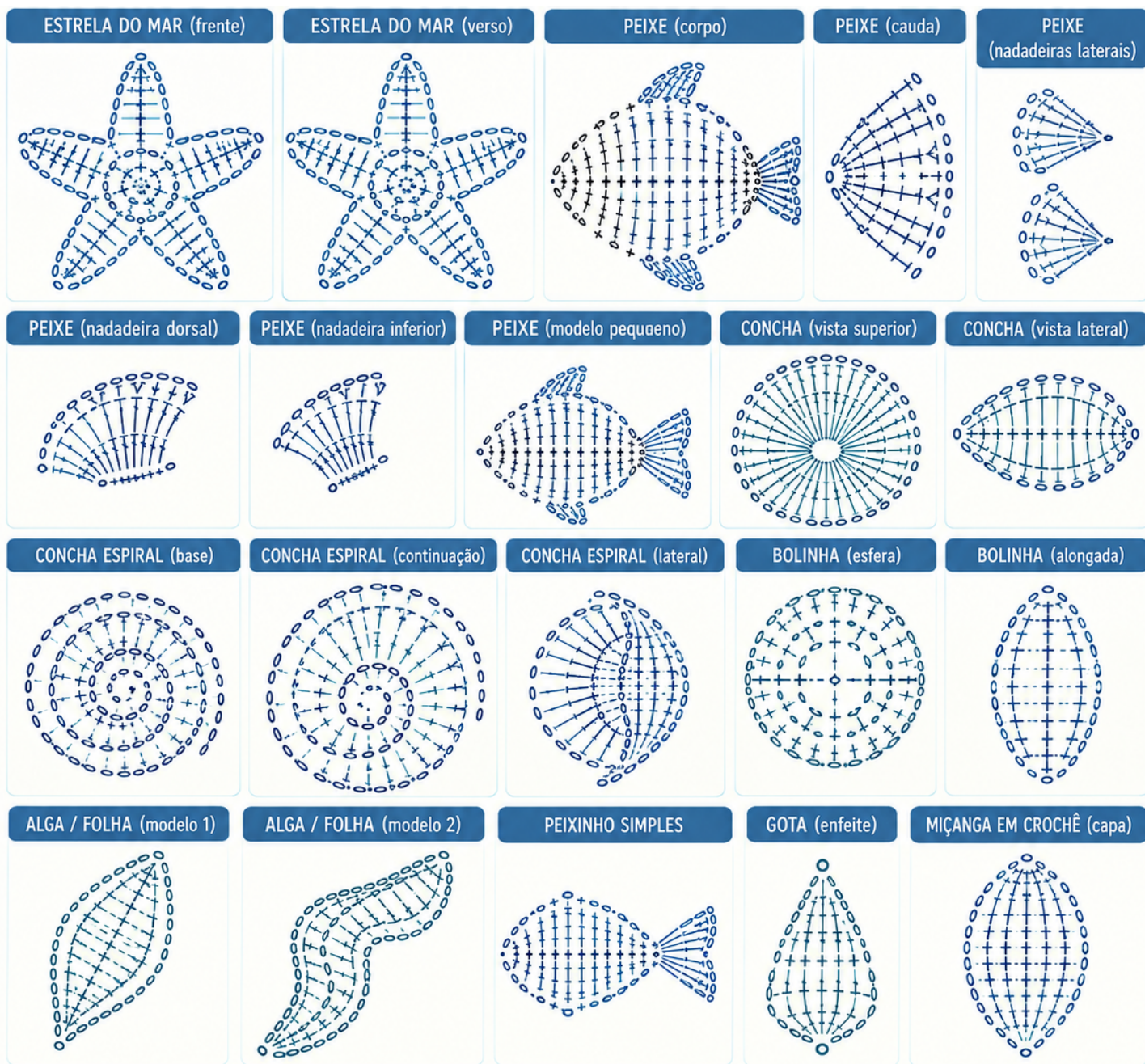
Portuguese label	English meaning
Estrela do mar / frente / verso	Starfish / front / back
Peixe / corpo / cauda	Fish / body / tail
Nadadeiras laterais / dorsal / inferior	Side fins / dorsal fin / lower fin
Concha / vista superior / lateral	Shell / top view / side view
Concha espiral / base / continuação	Spiral shell / base / continuation
Bolinha / esfera / alongada	Small ball / sphere / elongated
Alga / folha / gota / miçanga	Seaweed / leaf / drop / bead
Corrente / ponto baixíssimo / baixo	Chain / slip stitch / single crochet
Meio ponto alto / alto / alto duplo	Half double crochet / double crochet / treble crochet
Aumento / diminuição	Increase / decrease

How to use the final page: the supplied diagram is reproduced unchanged, including its original Portuguese labels. It has no complete round numbering and does not match every count in this independently developed tutorial. Use pages 3-8 as the stitching authority; use the final sheet for motif and arrangement reference.



Reference stitch diagram

Supplied artwork • see the English key and use note on the preceding page



SÍMBOLOS

- corrente
- ponto baixíssimo
- ponto baixo
- meio ponto alto
- ponto alto
- ponto alto duplo
- aumento
- diminuição

EXEMPLO DE MONTAGEM DE UMA TIRA



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