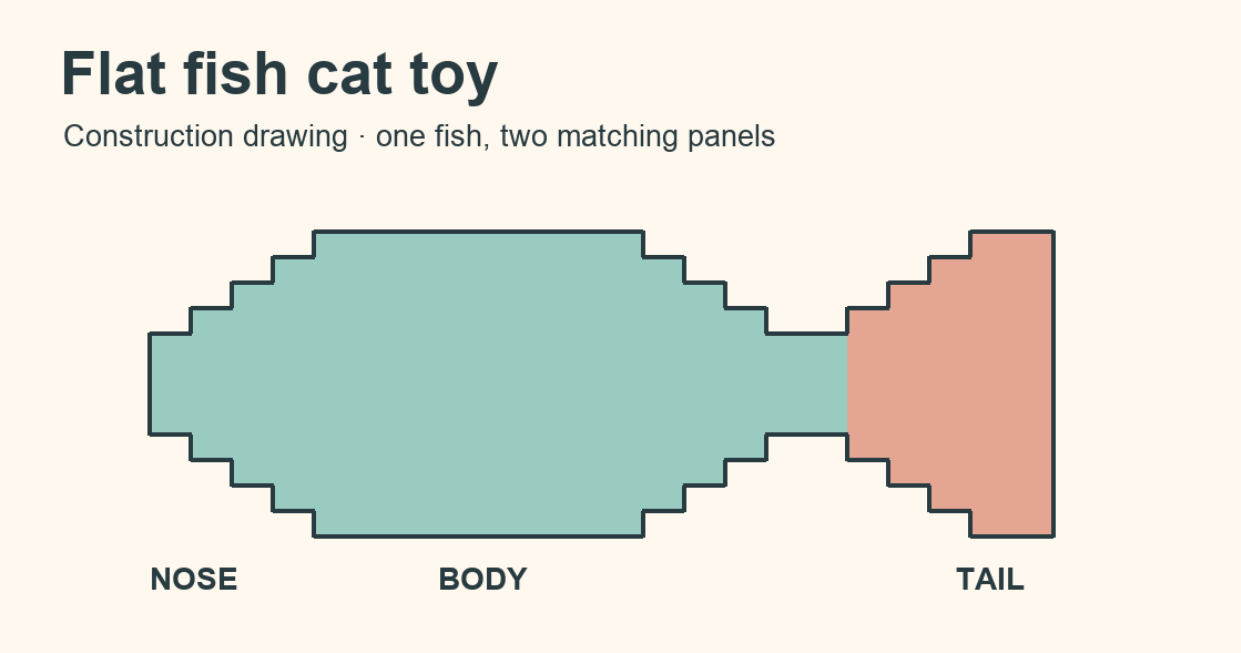
Flat Fish Cat Toy



Finished shape diagram · original construction drawing

Version 1.0 | US crochet terms
Prototype-ready draft. Two flat single-crochet panels with a fan tail.

Materials and stitch key

Use about 25–40 m of smooth, firmly plied worsted-weight cotton as a buying allowance, with an optional contrast for the tail. Start with a 3.5 mm crochet hook. Also gather a blunt yarn needle, markers and scissors.

The target gauge is about 19 sc and 22 rows per 10 cm in dense fabric. The finished fish should measure roughly 9–12 cm nose to tail and about 6–7 cm at the widest part, depending on tension. Measure after seaming, laid flat. Estimate length as 22 divided by rows per cm and body width as 12 divided by stitches per cm. Change yarn and hook together to scale the same row schedule. Choose another toy if your cat could swallow the fish whole.

US terms. Ch = chain, sc = single crochet, inc = 2 sc in one stitch, sc2tog = single crochet 2 stitches together. To sc2tog, draw up a loop in each of the next two stitches, yarn over and pull through all three loops. At the start of every numbered row after row 1, ch 1 and turn. The chain does not count. Work across both loops and count each row.

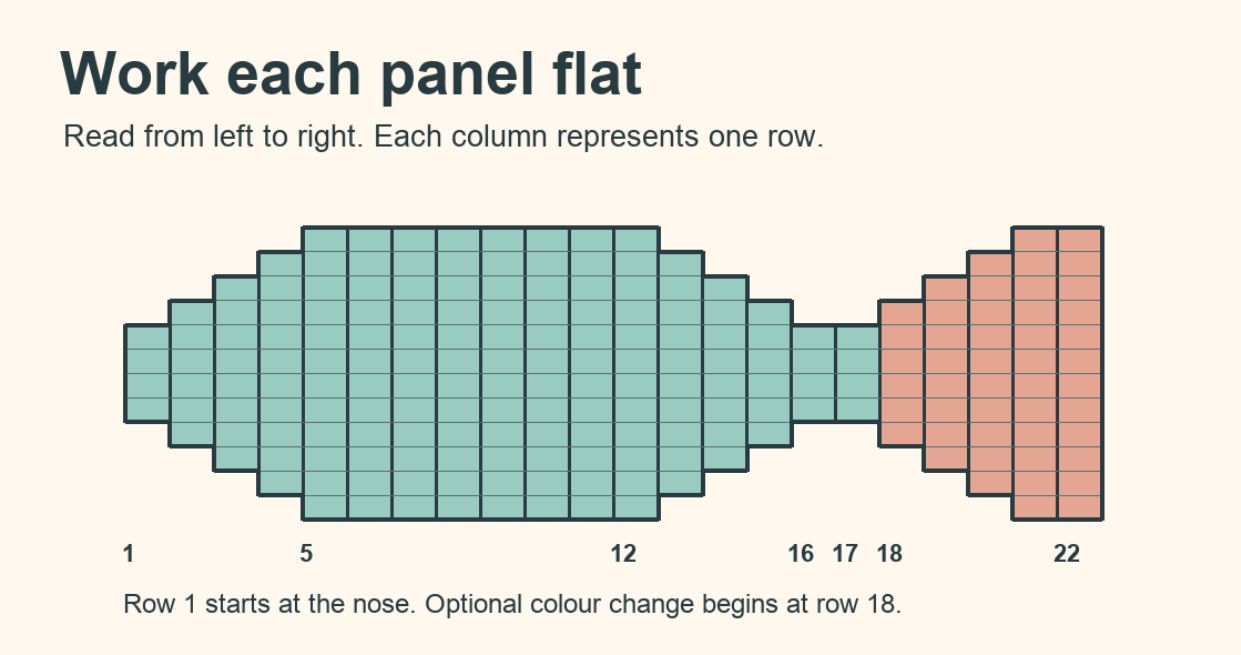
Crochet two identical panels

Start at the nose. Ch 5. Row 1: sc in the second ch from hook and in each remaining chain (4).

Rows 2–5: inc, sc across to the last stitch, inc. The counts are 6, 8, 10 and 12. Rows 6–12: 12 sc.

Rows 13–16: sc2tog at the start, sc across to the last two stitches, sc2tog. The counts are 10, 8, 6 and 4. Row 17: 4 sc. For a contrast tail, pull the new colour through the last stitch of row 17. Leave tails long enough to weave in.

Rows 18–21: inc, sc across to the last stitch, inc. The counts are 6, 8, 10 and 12. Row 22: 12 sc. Fasten off. Repeat rows 1–22 for the second panel. Check that both panels have matching widths without pulling them into alignment.



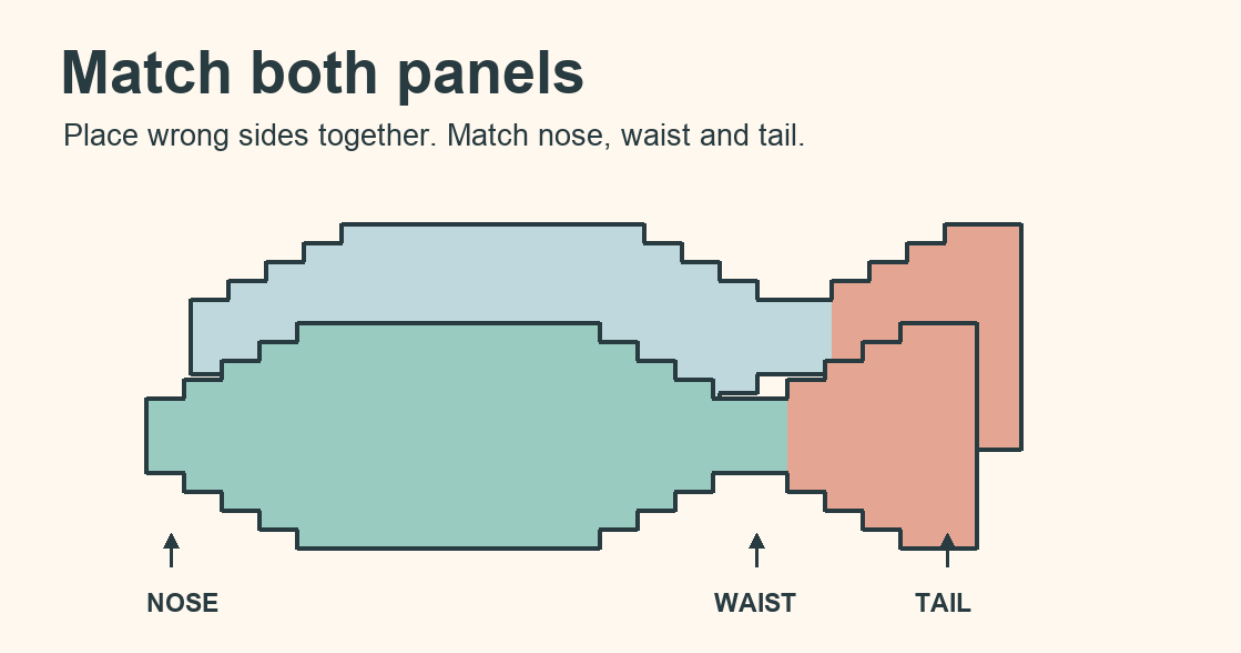
Panel stitch map · original construction drawing

Join the panels

Weave in the colour-change ends on the wrong side. Set the wrong sides together. Clip the nose corners, both narrow waist edges and the tail corners. Clip the widest part of the body on both sides, then match the row ends between clips.

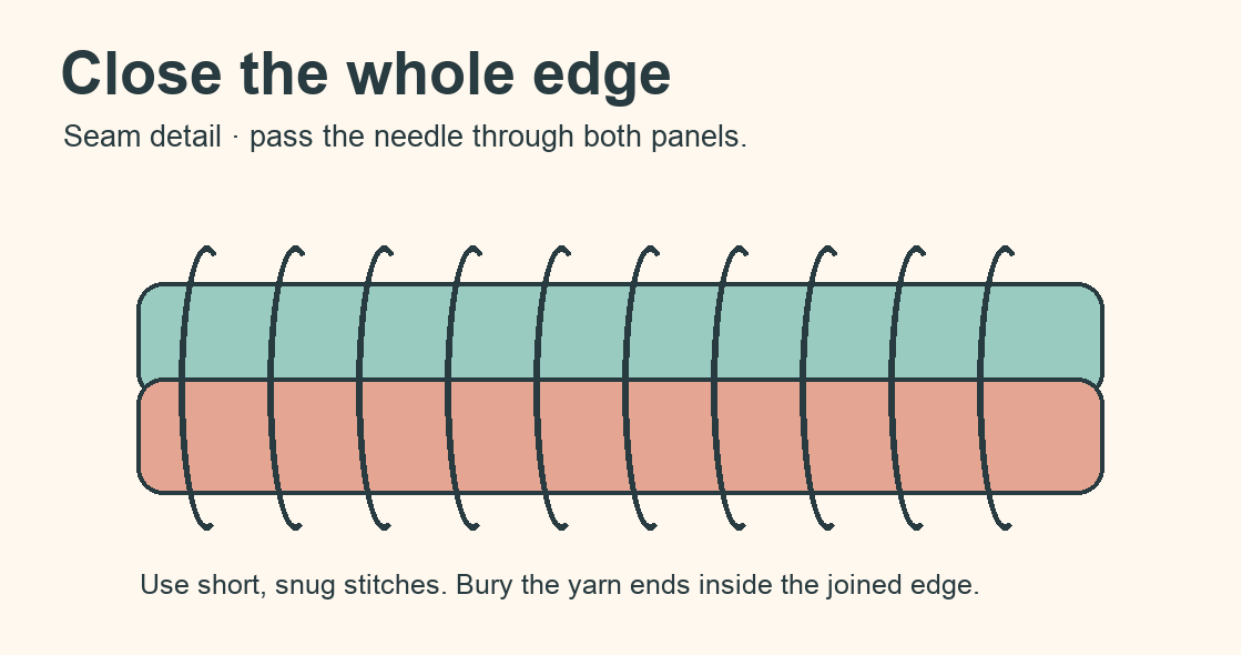
Thread a length of matching yarn. Starting at the nose, whipstitch around both panels. Take each stitch through both layers. Along the foundation and final rows, use one seam pass per paired stitch. Along the two long edges, start with one pass in each paired row-end. At each turn, add a small extra securing pass if the layers open. Keep the edge flat.

Continue all the way round, leaving the fish unfilled. Secure the seam and weave the end between the panels, reversing direction twice. Inspect the whole edge and tuck in loose strands. Tug gently along the seam and redo any loose sections.



Match the panels · original construction drawing

Check the seam and finish



Edge seam diagram · original construction drawing

Before play

Offer the fish during supervised play and put it away afterward. Look for frayed yarn, loosened stitches or an opening seam before each use. Remove the fish if damaged or if your cat chews fabric or tries to swallow it.

Check the yarn label for care. If you wash the fish, let it dry completely and check its seams again before play. The pattern is a prototype-ready draft and the drawings illustrate the intended construction.

For play and wear checks, see Cats Protection’s guidance on cats and play.

Original stuffed fish · photo reference

These photos show Jenna Wingate's 5 Minute Fish. The stuffed body and separate fins belong to that design. The flat fish instructions are on pages 1–4.



Cat with finished stuffed fish · Jenna Wingate's original stuffed fish (p. 1)



Finished stuffed fish, group view · Jenna Wingate's original stuffed fish (p. 1)



Dorsal fin reference · Jenna Wingate's original stuffed fish (p. 2)



Pectoral fins reference · Jenna Wingate's original stuffed fish (p. 2)