5-Minute Fish
By Jenna Wingate

The 5-Minute Mouse pattern from several years back has proven very popular among crocheting cat people. In honor of Bunny (the new kitten), I have designed a new toy based on that pattern. It has been amusing to see how many people took the name '5-Minute Mouse' as a challenge or judgment on their crocheting speed. It was never meant literally and was only intended to relay 'quick' and 'easy'. Since the controversy over that little number doesn't seem like it will end, I did it again. And, no, I cannot make this fish in 5 minutes. It takes more like 10. But who really cares because what you get in the end is a great and easy cat toy!

Skill Level: Easy
Finished Size: 2.5 inches long + tail
Gauge: Unimportant
American Crochet Terms

Materials:
#4 weight (medium/worsted) yarn – scraps
F/5 3.75mm crochet hook
Stuffing
Optional:
Catnip
Bell (use with caution)
Crinkles (business envelope window)

Tips:
- Mix some catnip into your stuffing in a Ziploc so it's ready to go. To store, I put this inside another bag and then locked in a drawer because my cats will shred it around the house if they find it!
- Never mind stitch markers. They take longer, if time is a worry for you. You really can't get too far off on something so little. When you finish round 6, pull your beginning tail through to mark where the rows end before beginning the even rounds.
-Before stuffing, turn you Fish wrong-side out, split and tie the beginning tail a couple of times right against the fabric. This should help keep the stuffing from busting out from the nose later and is a lot faster than sewing the end.

Stitches Used:
MR – Magic Ring or Circle <OR> Ch2 and work into 2nd chain from the hook
Sc – single crochet
BLO – back loop only
Slst – slip stitch
Hdc – half double crochet
Dc – double crochet
FO – finish off (cut yarn)

Pattern Usage
Please do not use this pattern for personal gain. Make tons of them for your cats, your friends' cats, your sister's cats, the shelter. Just don't make them to sell or sell the pattern or use the pictures. The exception to that would be shelter fund-raisers, in which case I would greatly appreciate you asking first. I will be happy to help you spread the word about the event. Thanks so much for your honesty and for loving the kitties!

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Have questions? Email only, please!

Pattern

Worked in continuous rounds. Do not join, do not turn.

1. In a MR, make 6sc. Pull ring tail to close tightly. (6)

Crochet BLO for the following rounds (2-9):

2. (2sc in the next, sc in the next) 3 times. (9)

3. (2sc in the next, sc in the next 2) 3 times. (12)

4. (2sc in the next, sc in the next 3) 3 times. (15)

5. (2sc in the next, sc in the next 4) 3 times. (18)

6. – 8. Sc in each stitch around.

9. Sc2tog around. (9)

Crochet through both loops now:

10. Sc in each stitch around.

Stuff full.

11. Fold the opening flat. Working through both layers to join, place 4 sc across the opening. Do not FO. (4)

First Tail Fin
Ch7. Slst in the 2nd chain from the hook. Sc in the next, hdc in the next. Dc in the next 2. Hdc in the last. Sk the 1st stitch of row 11 and slst into the 2nd.

Second Tail Fin.
Slst into 3rd stitch of row 11. Ch7. Slst in the 2nd chain from the hook. Sc in the next, hdc in the next. Dc in the next 2. Hdc in the last. Slst into the last stitch of row 11. Do not FO.

Dorsal Fin
Ch1. Working into the free loops in a straight line up the back, slst into a loop on the next row.

(Slst, ch1, hdc, dc) into a loop on the next row.

(3dc) into a loop on the next row.

(Hdc, dc) into a loop on the next row.

(Ch1, slst) into a loop on the next row. FO.

Use your hook to pull the tail through the fish and out the end. Trim any excess.

Dorsal Fin

Pectoral Fins

Pectoral Fins
The Pectoral fins should line up with about the very front of the Dorsal fin. You can just eyeball where to put them. Once again, you will be working into the free loops - 2 loops on each side. AND leave 2 loops space between the top of the Pectoral Fins and the Dorsal Fin.

Join with a (Ch1, hdc) in the 1st loop.
(Hdc, ch1, slst) in the next loop.

FO, pull the joins TIGHT and use your hook to pull the tails through to the ends of the body and trim them off. Repeat for the other side.

Give to cat, stand by to rescue from under sofa.

Caution: *Because this is a fast project and ends are not sewn, little pieces could come off with lots of tugging. Regularly inspect your pet's toys.*