

Dragon Scale Tam



Notes

This pattern uses a crocodile / dragon scale stitch, but with a few important differences:

Instead of building the framework / scaffolding stitches and then the scales on top, row-by-row, the whole scaffold is done first and then the scales.

This means you can use a different yarn for the scaffolding than you use for the scales.

Unlike a typical crocodile stitch in which the scales overlap to cover any gaps, there will be some small gaps through which the scaffolding stitches will be visible.

Thus it is important to choose a scaffolding colour that either blends in or complements the scales in some way.

Yardage

Scaffolding: ~137m

Headband: ~32m

Scales: ~250m

Glossary

MC: Magic Circle

dcinc: Double Crochet Increase

CrPost: Crocodile Post = dcinc

CrScale: Crocodile Scale = 5 dc down one post in a CrPost, ch 1, 5 dc up the other post

Pattern

Scaffolding

4 mm hook

1. MC

2. ch 3 (counts as stitch), dc 12 into MC (12)

Note: The number of stitches in a round will be counted in dcincs (aka CrPosts) instead of raw stitches as it's easier to count than including all the chains as well.

3. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [CrPost, ch 2, sk st] x 6, sl st to top of chain (6 CrPosts)

Note: From now on, always CrPost inside the CrPost below, skipping the chains between (as per typical crocodile stitch)

4. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [CrPost, ch 2, CrPost in the same space as last CrPost, ch 2] x 6, sl st to top of chain (12 CrPosts)

5. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [CrPost, ch 2, CrPost in the same space as last CrPost, ch 2, CrPost, ch 2] x 6, sl st to top of chain (18 CrPosts)
6. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [CrPost, ch 2, CrPost in the same space as last CrPost, ch 2, [CrPost, ch 2] x 2] x 6, sl st to top of chain (24 CrPosts)
7. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [CrPost, ch 2, CrPost in the same space as last CrPost, ch 2, [CrPost, ch 2] x 3] x 6, sl st to top of chain (30 CrPosts)
8. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [CrPost, ch 2, CrPost in the same space as last CrPost, ch 2, [CrPost, ch 2] x 4] x 6, sl st to top of chain (36 CrPosts)
9. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [CrPost, ch 2, CrPost in the same space as last CrPost, ch 2, [CrPost, ch 2] x 5] x 6, sl st to top of chain (42 CrPosts)
10. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [CrPost, ch 2, CrPost in the same space as last CrPost, ch 2, [CrPost, ch 2] x 6] x 6, sl st to top of chain (48 CrPosts)
11. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [CrPost, ch 2, CrPost in the same space as last CrPost, ch 2, [CrPost, ch 2] x 7] x 6, sl st to top of chain (54 CrPosts)
12. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [CrPost, ch 2, CrPost in the same space as last CrPost, ch 2, [CrPost, ch 2] x 8] x 6, sl st to top of chain (60 CrPosts)
13. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [CrPost, ch 2, CrPost in the same space as last CrPost, ch 2, [CrPost, ch 2] x 9] x 6, sl st to top of chain (66 CrPosts)

14. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [[CrPost, ch 2] x 8, CrPost (no ch 2), [dc in next CrPost space] x 2] x 6, sl st to top of chain (54 CrPosts)
15. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [[CrPost, ch 2] x 6, CrPost (no ch 2), [dc in next CrPost space] x 2] x 6, sl st to top of chain (42 CrPosts)
16. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [[CrPost, ch 2] x 4, CrPost (no ch 2), [dc in next CrPost space] x 2] x 6, sl st to top of chain (30 CrPosts)

17. (Mark this stitch, scales start here), ch 3 (counts as stitch), [[CrPost, ch 2] x 3, CrPost, ch 1, [dc in next CrPost space] x 1] x 6, sl st to top of chain (24 CrPosts)

Note: The number of stitches in a round is back to being counted in stitches as usual

18. ch 3 (counts as stitch), [dc 4 times in the same CrPost space, [dc 3 times in the same CrPost space] x 3] x 6, sl st to top of chain (78 stitches)

Headband

4 mm hook

This part of the pattern starts each round with a 2 ch and ends with a sl st. into the top of that chain.

1. hdc (front loops only) in each stitch (78)
2. hdc in each stitch (78)
3. hdc in each stitch (78)
4. hdc in each stitch (back loops only) (allows for a sharper edge when folded) (78)
5. hdc in each stitch (78)
6. hdc in each stitch (78)

Switch hook size (5 mm is recommended) size and tension will heavily affect the final tightness of the headband

7. Fold the band in half so it's 2 layers thick, slip st. through both layers*, tie off (78)

*Weave the yarn around the posts on the outside and through the loops of the st. on the inside

Scales

4 mm hook

As in typical Crocodile Stitch, only crochet a scale in every other CrPost, ignore the single dcs as though they were part of the chains between CrPosts.

Scales should point towards the headband on the underside and away from the center on the top of the hat.

When moving to the next row, chain 4 and slip stitch into the CrPost above the current gap (or the one next to that) to stagger the scales. The scale should be worked in front of this chain so it's hidden.

Note: Rounds will be counted in scales, not raw stitches

1. sl st into the marked stitch on the scaffolding OR its CrPost pair depending on which direction you are comfortable making the scales

2. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 12, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (12)

3. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 15, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (15)

4. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 21, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (21)

5. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 27, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (27)

6. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 33, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (33)

7. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 30, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (30)

8. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 27, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (27)

9. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 24, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (24)

10. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 21, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (21)

11. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 18, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (18)

12. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 15, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (15)

13. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 12, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (12)

14. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 9, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (9)

15. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 6, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (6)

16. ch 3 (counts as stitch), CrScale x 3, sl st to top of sl st to top of chain (3)