



Manta Ray



Manta Rays are gentle giants, the biggest of the rays. They sweep through oceans scooping up plankton and little fish, before pulling up to the Manta wash, where little fishes provide a spring clean for a free meal. Mantas are clever and very curious, even popping out of the water to take a look at our world. If you love Finding Nemo, you might also know they make excellent teachers.

You will need:

- <25g of Dark Blue, and < 25g of White DK Weight Yarn (I used RYC Bamboo soft(blue) and Sirdar Baby Bamboo(Ivory))
- 2 10mm Safety Eyes
- A Scrap of Pink Felt
- Pipe Cleaners

The Manta Ray is worked entirely in single crochet.



Body

Chain 10 + 1 for turning.

Row 1- 4: 4 rows using a turning chain (10 stitches in each row).



For the next 21 rows, increase each row by 2 stitches. These extra stitches are put into the first and last stitch. Put 2 stitches in the first stitch and 2 in the last.

Row 5: Crochet 2 single stitches in the first chain, then 1 single stitch in each of the next 9 chain stitches, 2 single crochets in the 10th. Chain 1 as a turning chain.



Row 6: Crochet 2 single stitches in the first chain, then 1 single stitch in the next 10 chain stitches then 2 single crochet in the 12th. Chain 1 as a turning chain.

Row 7 - 25(Continue with this for the next 18 rows) Cast off



Tail

Fold the Manta ray body in half . Mark the centre point (Use a little bit of yarn pulled through).



Crochet into the back edge of the manta ray 4 stitches on each side of the centre point

1- 4: Crochet 4 rows of 8 single stitches (using a turning chain to keep the same number of stitches on each row.)



5 - 11: For the next 7 rows do not use a turning chain so that each row reduces by one.

With just one loop on hook, chain 22. This makes the long part of the tail.

Side 2: Repeat the instructions for the body and tail in the dark colour.

Now you should have the 2 parts of the manta ray, one light and dark. Crochet into any ragged edges (1 row of single crochet around the edge), around the tail, the wings and mouth, to give a smooth edge. This also thickens the tail and makes it one crochet stitch wide.

Eyes: Secure safety eyes. I sewed on outlines with some of ivory yarn.

Mouth: Sew a piece of pink felt on to each mouth part of the manta ray. You may need to cut a hole for the backs of the eyes.



Making it bendy: Sew pipe cleaner in a T shape on the edges of the wing and the tail.

Now stuff and sew the edges together: I like using a thread in the lighter colour and just making small stitches into the dark fabric; this means you can't see the stitches at all.



Leave the mouth open to give a happy expression.

If you want to add mouth flaps, or so called devil horns, you can simply crochet them into the sides of the mouth. Despite not being totally realistic, I decided to remove mine, as I thought the ray looked so much cuter without. You decide!

Mouth Flaps: Crochet 7 rows of 2 stitches, with a turning chain, at one side of the mouth in blue, then stitch around to neaten edges. Repeat this for the other side.



Hope it goes swimmingly!

