Shark Mittens

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These mittens were designed for my spunky nephew William on his 4th birthday. I decided to use Tunisian crochet because I like the look of the fabric. The front and back were crocheted at the same time and then the open end was slip stitched together. You could also use Tunisian crochet in the round, regular crochet in the round (your color changes will drift diagonally), or regular crochet back and forth. Directions are given for the left mitten, and the right mitten will be the mirror image. The cuff is done using regular crochet. The final mitten is about 6" around and 6" long without the cuff. You can easily adjust the size by increasing/decreasing the number of rows and stitches per row.

Materials
- Size F Tunisian crochet hook
- Sport weight yarn:
    - Body color (royal blue)
    - Mouth color (red)
    - Counter-shading color (light blue)
    - Black and white for eyes and teeth
- Tapestry needle
- Gauge: 6 sc = 1", 6 rows = 1"

Wrist (shark body)

Sharks, like many other marine vertebrates, have counter-shading. The dorsal half is dark-colored so when you look down on them from above, they blend into the deep, dark ocean. The ventral half is light-colored, so when you look up at them from below, they blend into the light. For these mittens, I alternated MC and CC for the counter-shading of the shark belly. For the first row, the forward pass was done with MC, and the reverse pass was done in MC for the left and CC for the right. The next row, the forward pass was done in CC for the the right half, and then MC for the left half, and the reverse pass was done all in MC. Continue to alternate MC and CC for the belly.

Base Chain: With MC, ch 30	(30 ch)
Row 1: With CC, 15 sc; with MC, 15 sc	(30 sc)
⋮	⋮
Row 8: With CC, 15 sc; with MC, 15 sc	(30 sc)
Row 9: With CC, 1 inc, 15 sc; with MC, 1 inc, 15 sc	(32 sc)
Row 10: With CC, 16 sc, 1 inc; with MC, 16 sc, 1 inc	(34 sc)
Row 11: With CC, 1 inc, 17 sc; with MC, 1 inc, 17 sc	(36 sc)
Row 12: With CC, 18 sc; with MC, 18 sc	(36 sc)

Fingers (shark head)

For the thumb hole, make a chain, slip stitch the chain to the shark belly, pull the loop on the hook long until you can go back and reach the beginning of the chain. Pick up stitches in the chain just made in the forward pass, weaving in the pulled loop on the way. Continue the forward pass and do the reverse pass as normal. I tried to make the halves as symmetrical as possible. For example, when decreasing, I would decrease one stitch each on the right side of the top and bottom halves in one row, and then I would decrease one stitch each on the left side of the top and bottom halves in the next row.

Row 13: With BC, 2 sc, ch 6, sk 5 sc from previous row, sl st in the 6th sc from previous row, 6 sc in chain just made, 10 sc; with MC, 18 sc	(36 sc)
Row 14: With BC, 18 sc; with MC, 18 sc	(36 sc)

⋮	⋮
Row 28: With BC, 18 sc; with MC, 18 sc	(36 sc)
Row 29: With BC, dec 1, 16 sc; with MC, dec 1, 16 sc	(34 sc)
Row 30: With BC, 15 sc, dec 1; with MC, 15 sc, dec 1	(32 sc)
Row 31: With BC, dec 1, 14 sc; with MC, dec 1, 14 sc	(30 sc)
Row 32: With BC, 13 sc, dec 1; with MC, 13 sc, dec 1	(28 sc)
Row 33: With BC, dec 2, 10 sc; with MC, dec 2, 10 sc	(24 sc)
Row 34: With BC, 8 sc, dec 2; with MC, 8 sc, dec 2	(20 sc)
Row 35: With BC, dec 5, 1 sc; with MC, dec 5, 1 sc, finish off	(12 sc)

Thumb (shark lower jaw)

The thumb is crocheted so that the right sides of the thumbs are facing the right sides of the fingers (BC) or wrist (CC). After crocheting each side, turn the thumb inside-out through the hole, so the right sides of the thumb are facing each other. Slip stitch together, weave in the ends, then turn the thumb back right-side out. Once the thumbs are done, fold the right sides of the mitten together, and slip stitch the open end together, finish off, and weave in the ends.

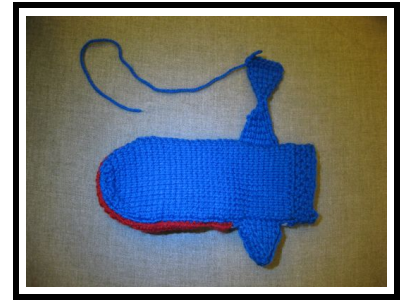|	
With BC:	
Row 1: In lower loops of thumbhole chain, 6 sc	(6 sc)
⋮	⋮
Row 8: 6 sc	(6 sc)
Row 9: dec 1, 2 sc, dec 1. Finish off.	(4 sc)
With CC:	
Row 1: In top row of shark belly below thumbhole chain, 6 sc	(6 sc)
⋮	⋮
Row 8: 6 sc	(6 sc)
Row 9: dec 1, 2 sc, dec 1. Finish off.	(4 sc)

Cuff

The cuff is done using regular crochet in a spiral. Use a stitch marker to help you to count rows. In the first row, sc all around. In subsequent rows, sc alternately in front or back loop of previous row. After row 4, finish off. Alternating in front and back loops makes a nice, stretchy fabric.
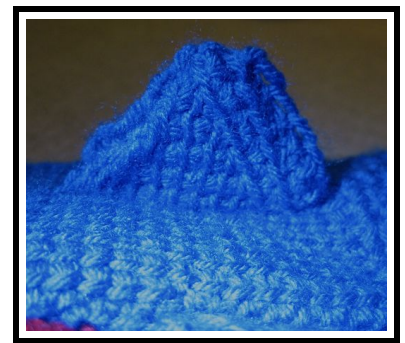
Pectoral fins

The fins are done in Tunisian crochet. Start the forward pass of the pectoral fins on the sides of the body. Decrease by one stitch each row down to 2 sc, then increase again. Fold so the right sides are together and slip stitch along the diagonal sides. Turn the fin so the right sides are out and sew the bottom of the fin to the side using a tapestry needle.

Row 1: With MC, 8 sc	(8 sc)
Row 2: Dec 1, 6 sc	(7 sc)
Row 3: 5 sc, dec 1	(6 sc)
Row 4: Dec 1, 4 sc	(5 sc)
Row 5: 3 sc, dec 1	(4 sc)
Row 6: Dec 1, 2 sc	(3 sc)
Row 7: 1 sc, dec 1	(2 sc)
Row 8: 2 sc	(2 sc)
Row 9: Inc 1, 2 sc	(3 sc)
Row 10: 3 sc, inc 1	(4 sc)
Row 11: Inc 1, 4 sc	(5 sc)
Row 12: 5 sc, inc 1	(6 sc)
Row 13: Inc 1, 6 sc	(7 sc)
Row 14: 7 sc, inc 1, finish off.	(8 sc)

Dorsal fin

Start the forward pass of the dorsal fin on the top of the body. Decrease by two stitches each row down to 2 sc, then increase again. Fold so the right sides are together and slip stitch along the diagonal sides. Turn the fin so the right sides are out and sew the bottom of the fin to the side using a tapestry needle.

Row 1: 12 sc	(12 sc)
Row 2: Dec 1, 8 sc, dec 1	(10 sc)
Row 3: Dec 1, 6 sc, dec 1	(8 sc)
Row 4: Dec 1, 4 sc, dec 1	(6 sc)
Row 5: Dec 1, 2 sc, dec 1	(4 sc)
Row 6: Dec 2	(2 sc)
Row 7: 2 sc	(2 sc)
Row 8: Inc 1, 2 sc, inc 1	(4 sc)
Row 9: Inc 1, 4 sc, inc 1	(6 sc)
Row 10: Inc 1, 6 sc, inc 1	(8 sc)
Row 11: Inc 1, 8 sc, inc 1	(10 sc)
Row 12: Inc 1, 10 sc, inc 1	(12 sc)

Upper teeth

Sharks have many, many rows of teeth. I think I'll just do one. With white yarn, make a slip knot on the hook. Along the inside edge of the upper jaw, (insert hook in next stitch in jaw, yo, draw up a loop) 3 times so there's 4 loops on the hook; yo, draw hook through all 4 loops, ch 1, insert hook through all 4 loops, yo, draw hook through all 4 loops again, sl st in 3rd stitch in jaw. Upper tooth made. Repeat all the way around jaw (I ended up with 18 teeth). Finish off, weave in the ends.

Lower teeth

With white yarn, make a slip knot on the hook. Along the inside edge of the upper jaw, (insert hook in next stitch in jaw, yo, draw up a loop) 2 times so there's 3 loops on the hook; yo, draw hook through all 3 loops, ch 1, insert hook through all 3 loops, yo, draw hook through all 3 loops again, sl st in 2nd stitch in jaw. Upper tooth made. Repeat all the way around jaw (I ended up with 9 teeth). Finish off, weave in the ends.

Eyes

Buttons, googly eyes, and many other things make great eyes. I chose to crochet applique eyes. With black, ch 2. In 2nd ch, 6sc. Finish off. With white, sl st and 1 sc in same black sc, 2 sc in each of next 2 black sc, 1 sc and 1 sl st in next black sc. Finish off, sew eye on to the head, and weave in the ends.