

Children's  
Museum

# Seaweed Fiber Art Instructions

Help build the underwater world for the  
Children's Museum's City Pathways exhibition  
right from your couch!





Wonderful! Welcome to join the Children's Museum as an artist in the underwater world!

I am Riina, the exhibition's project manager, and for me crochet and other fiber techniques are the very best things you can do with your hands. However, I simply

can't make all the seaweed needed for the underwater world on my own, which is why I'm asking for help from the public. With this instruction pack, you can take part in the wonderful world of fiber art seaweed.

Thank you for helping to build the exhibition!

Need help?  
Call or message me!  
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## What is the seaweed needed for?

A giant seaweed installation is being created for the Children's Museum's underwater world, and we need help to make it! The seaweed pieces created by volunteers will be arranged on the walls and other surfaces of the underwater world. The result will be a rich and diverse seafloor environment filled with different textures and shapes.

The name of each contributor will be given an honorary place alongside the makers of the artwork. In addition, everyone who contributes ten or more seaweed pieces will receive a free ticket to the Museum and Science Centre Tiima, opening in October 2026, where the Children's Museum is also located.

## How is seaweed made?

Seaweed can be made following this instruction pack by crocheting, knotting mini rya pieces, or wrapping tassels. The difficulty level of each instruction is marked with one to five dots –the more dots, the more challenging the instruction.

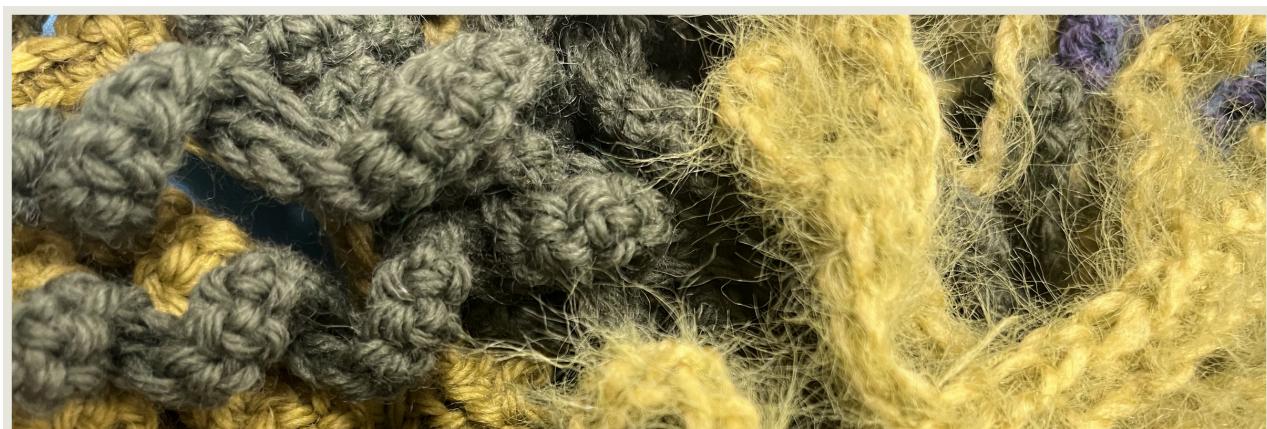
For crocheted seaweed, it is helpful to know how to make and recognize basic stitches: the chain stitch and the single crochet stitch. For rya techniques, you will need to know how to make a lark's head knot or a rya knot. For the other techniques, knowing how to tie a basic overhand knot is enough!

If you are skilled in different techniques, you are also welcome to design and create your very own unique seaweed pieces. We are happy to receive all contributions!

## Delivering the seaweed to the exhibition:

You can bring or send the seaweed pieces to the Oulu Art Museum by 31 May 2026. Please include your name and contact details.

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# And what exactly is the Children's Museum?

The Children's Museum is the children's own museum within the Museum and Science Centre Tiima, opening in October 2026 in the Myllytulli area of Oulu. The exhibitions invite children to make, explore, and experience—almost everything can be touched!

The themes of the first exhibition, City Pathways, are closely connected to Oulu. The exhibition tells the story of a child who moves through the city along their own routes and paths: walking in nearby forests, along the edges of the railway yard, through inner courtyards, visiting a park kiosk, playing snowball fights at Oulu's Snow Castle, and finally diving into an exciting underwater world.



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## Crochet Bladderwrack



## Colors:

Use different shades of green, yellow, brown, and red.

## Materials:

Use yarns, cords, and weft materials that can be crocheted. Thin materials create small and delicate bladderwrack forms, while thicker materials produce giant bladderwrack shapes. Thin yarn can also be held double or triple. Try combining different colors and materials!

## Tools:

Use a crochet hook suitable for the chosen material, and a tapestry needle for finishing. Try different hook sizes—crocheting thin yarn with a large hook can create a fun and interesting result!

## Instructions:

The bladderwrack in this pattern is formed by repeating a Y-shaped motif shown in the charts. In the regular structure, the stem and branches consist only of chain stitches and single crochet stitches worked back along the chains. Twisting of the branches is natural and even desirable. However, it may make the chains slightly harder to read, so always try to ensure that the chain stitches are straight as you work back along them.

The stem of the bladderwrack is consistently formed from 5 chain stitches (ch) and 5 returning single crochet stitches (sc) worked back along the chain (wbac). The branches are made in the same way, except that at the tips of the branches you always crochet 6 ch and return with 5 sc stitches.

The right side of the bladderwrack is crocheted first, and then you work back along the left side of the stem. See diagram charts 1–3 for illustrated instructions. Charts 1 and 2 show how to crochet one branch using two different visual representations, and chart 3 shows how the branches connect to one another.

### **Right-side branches of the stem:**

- 1.** Begin by ch 26 (=stem ch 5 + first branch consisting of four stages ch 5 + 5 + 5 + 6)
- 2.** Turn to work back along the chain: skip 1 ch and sc 5.
- 3.** Ch 6, turn, skip 1 ch and sc 5, work back along the chain (wbac) sc 5, ch 11, skip 1 ch and wbac sc 5, ch 6, skip 1 ch and wbac sc 5, wbac sc 5, wbac sc 5.
- 4.** Ch 16, skip 1 ch and wbac sc 5, ch 6, skip 1 ch and wbac sc 5, wbac sc 5, ch 11, skip 1 ch and wbac sc 5, ch 6, skip 1 ch and wbac sc 5, wbac sc 5, wbac sc 5.
- 5.** Repeat steps 1–4 as many times as you like.

### **Tip:**

After completing the last branch, make one final branch at the tip as follows:

- 1.** 21 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, 6 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc, 11 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, 6 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc.
- 2.** 16 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, 6 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc, 11 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, 6 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc.

### **Left-side branches of the stem:**

1. Work back along the stem and crochet 5 sc into it.
2. 21 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, 6 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc, 11 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, 6 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc.
3. 16 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, 6 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc, 11 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, 6 ch, skip 1 ch and work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc, work back 5 sc.
4. Repeat steps 1–3 all the way to the end.
5. Cut the yarn and weave in the ends.



Bladderwrack  
branches  
smoothed out.

### **Extra Challenges**

Once you are comfortable with the basic instructions, you can add extra challenges by making bladders, adding taller stitches, creating an irregular bladderwrack, or designing one entirely on your own!

### **Bladders**

Bladders make the tips of the branches more visually striking.

1. Crochet the ch's of the bladderwrack branch.
2. Turn and crochet at least 1 sc, then begin the bladder.
3. Dc 4 into the same ch.
4. Continue tightly with sc into the next ch.
5. Push the formed bladder to the front of the work with your finger or hook if it has ended up on the back side.
6. Sc 2 or more between bladders on the same branch.

### **Taller stitches**

Taller stitches work especially well on the branches of the bladderwrack, but also on the stem. They are particularly effective in highlighting the branches of an Irregular bladderwrack (see the next section).

1. Crochet the ch's of the branch.
2. Turn and crochet the desired number of sc's, half double crochets (hdc), and double crochets (dc) so that the stitches first increase in height and then decrease again, e.g. 1 sc, 3 hdc, 4 dc, 3 hdc, 1 sc.

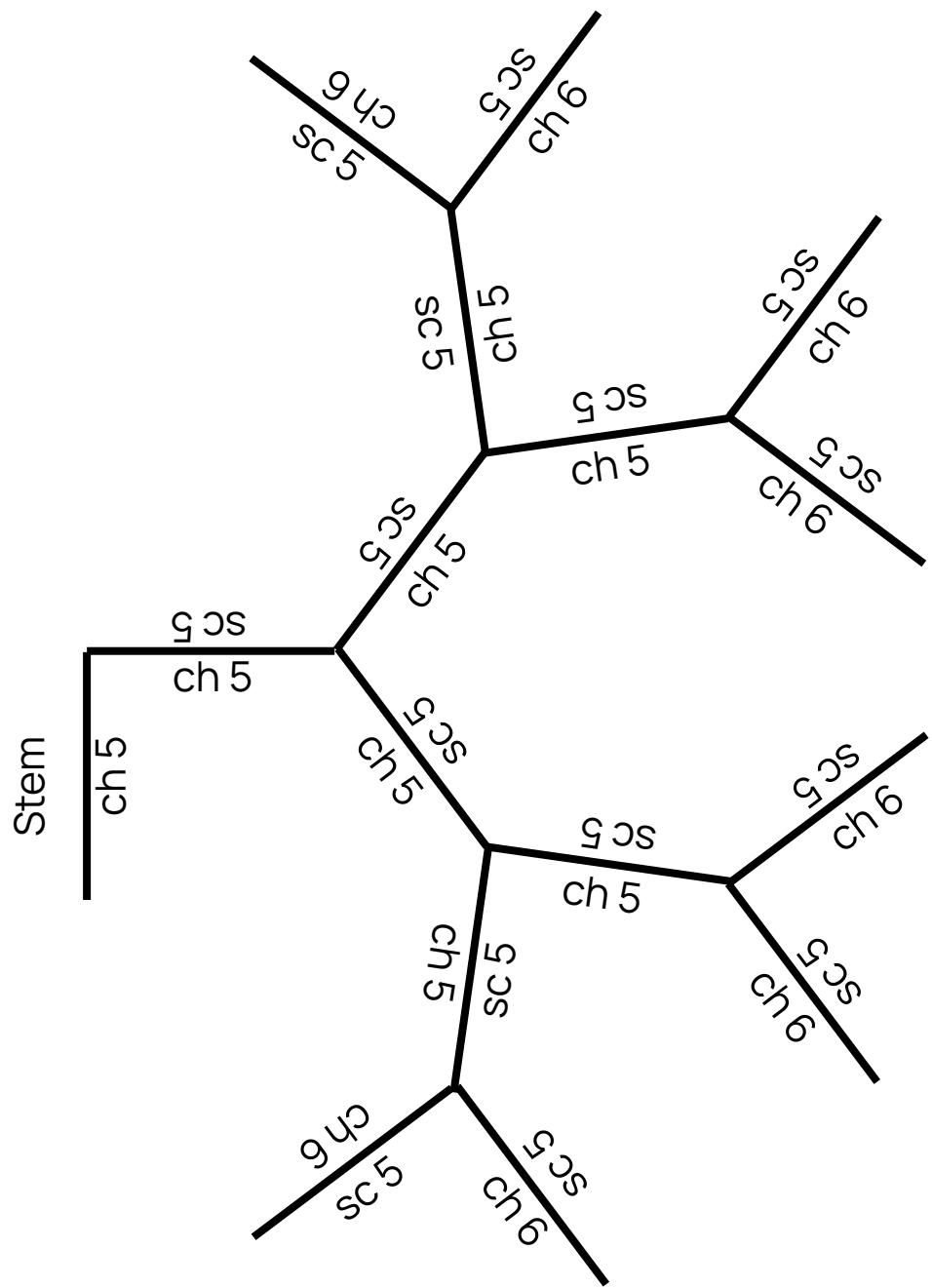
### **Irregular Bladderwrack**

In addition to the regular bladderwrack, you can make an irregular bladderwrack following Chart 4. The number of stitches in the stem and branches varies, resulting in a playfully different bladderwrack form.

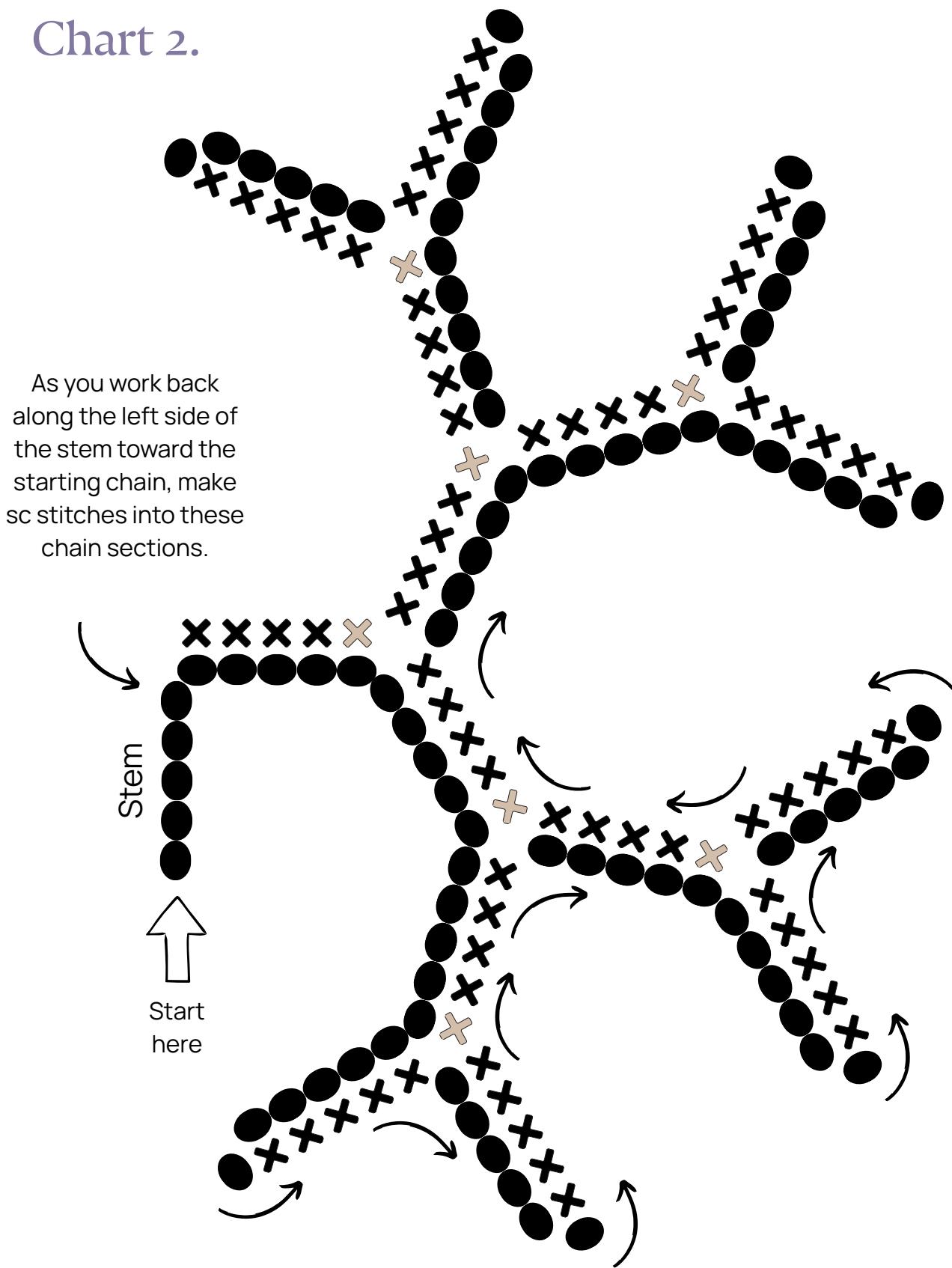
### **Design Your Own Bladderwrack**

Draw your own vision of a multi-branched bladderwrack on paper. Try to fill the entire page with the stem and branches. You can look at Chart 4 for inspiration. Begin crocheting at the bottom of the stem and work toward the tip by alternating ch and sc stitches, then continue back down along the stem toward the starting point. You can draw symbols in your sketch to indicate the stitches needed for the stem and branches, or crochet freehand, approximating the lengths of the stems and branches you have drawn.

## Chart 1.



## Chart 2.



- ch = chain stitch
- ✖ sc = single crochet
- ✖ the attachment point to a previously crocheted ch

### Chart 3.

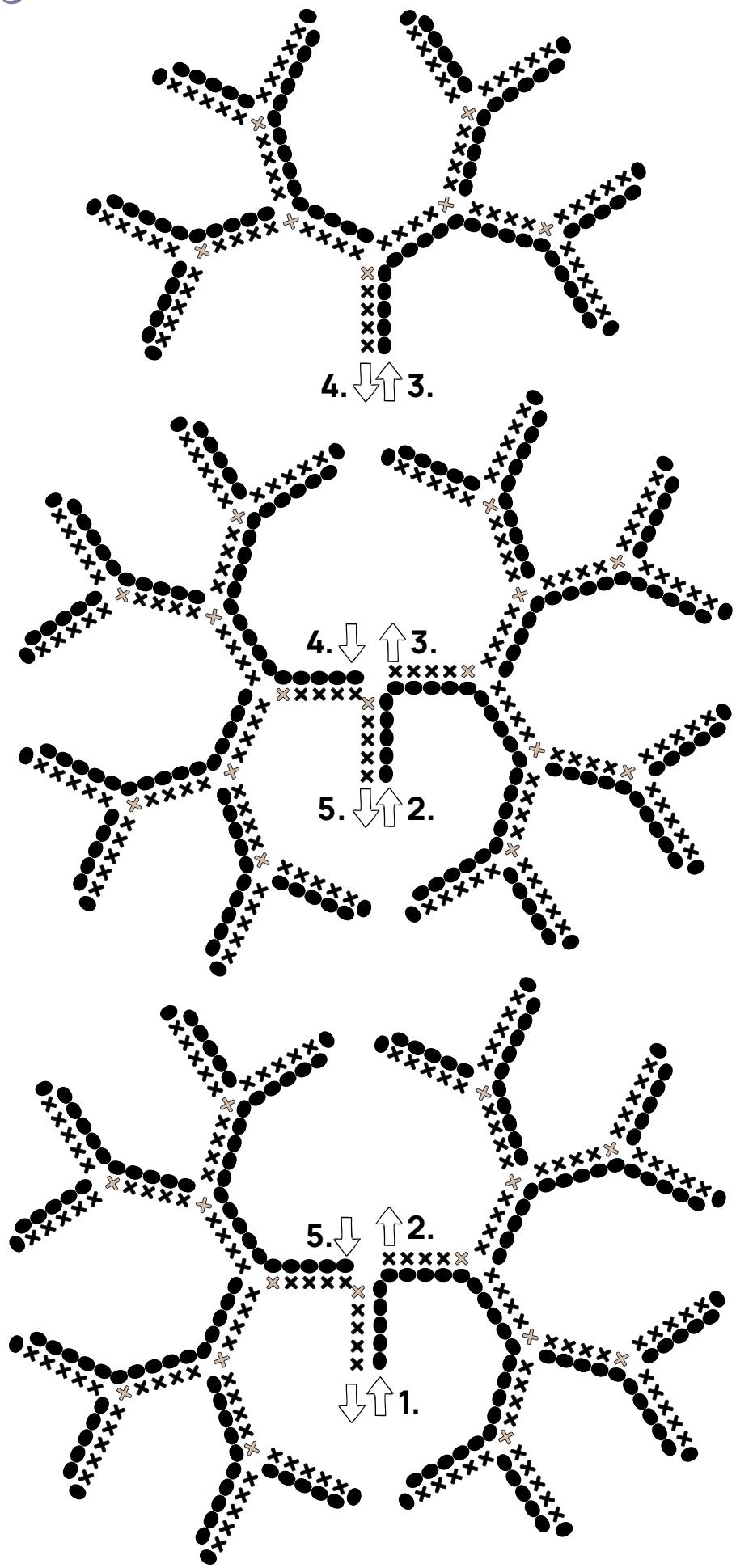
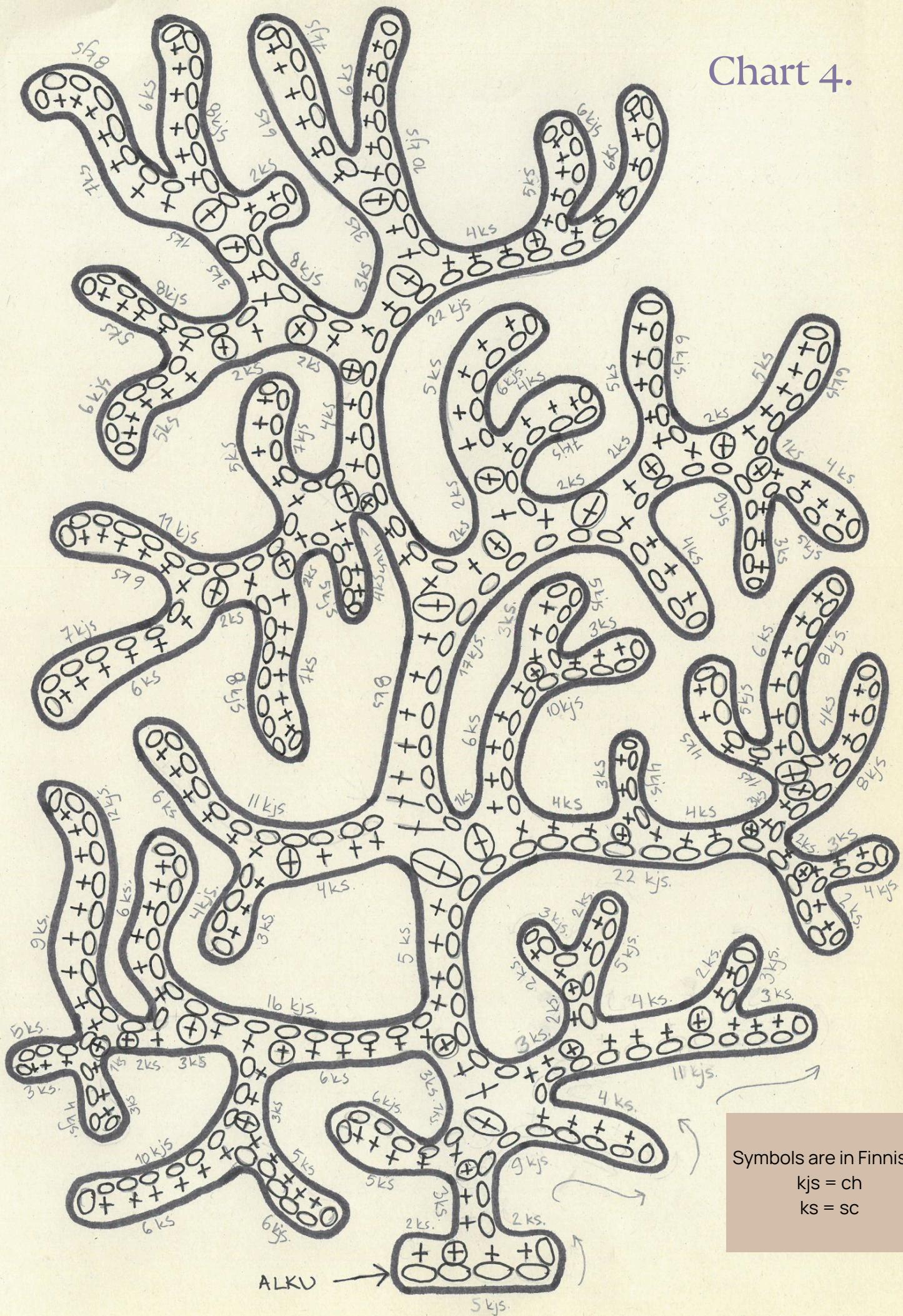


Chart 4.



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# Marimo Pom Pom

with a ready frame



## Colors:

Use different shades of green, yellow, brown, and red.

## Materials:

Use soft yarns, weft materials, and cords of all thicknesses and from all materials. Dense cotton yarns and cords are not suitable for this technique, as the center of the pom pom needs to be able to compress.

## Tools:

A pom pom frame and sharp scissors.

## Instructions:

Single-color pom pom: use yarn in only one color.

Multicolored pom pom with separate color areas: use yarns in multiple colors, but wind each color onto its own section of the pom pom frame. You can easily make a two-color pom pom by winding one color onto one half of the pom pom frame and the other color onto the other half.

Multicolored pom pom with evenly distributed colors: hold the ends of all the yarn colors you want together and wind them around the pom pom frame as one bundle.



**1.** Choose a suitably sized pom pom frame and prepare it for use.



**2.** Choose the yarn or yarns you want to use for your pom pom, and begin wrapping the yarn loosely around one half of the pom pom frame. When that half is nicely full and rounded, cut the yarn.





**3.** Set the first half aside and begin wrapping yarn around the other half. When both halves are nicely full, cut the yarn on the side you finished last and attach the two halves together.



**4.** Slip the tips of your scissors into the groove of the pom pom frame and carefully cut through all the yarn around the entire edge. Inside the pom pom frame there is now a big bundle of yarn strands.



**5.** Take a piece of yarn about 30 cm long and slip it into the groove you've just cut open. Tie it tightly around the bundle of yarn, using at least two knots. If the pom pom is large or the yarn is brittle, use a double strand of yarn.



**6.** Remove the pom pom from the frame and fluff it a little. Trim the ends of the tying yarn to match the length of the other strands. You don't need to shape the pom pom, but you can neaten it with scissors if you wish.



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# Marimo Pom Pom with a round cardboard frame



## Colors:

Use different shades of green, yellow, brown, and red.

## Materials:

Use soft yarns, weft materials, and cords of all thicknesses and from all materials. Dense cotton yarns and cords are not suitable for this technique, as the center of the pom pom needs to be able to compress.

## Tools:

A piece of cardboard and sharp scissors.

## Instructions:

Single-color pom pom: use yarn in only one color.

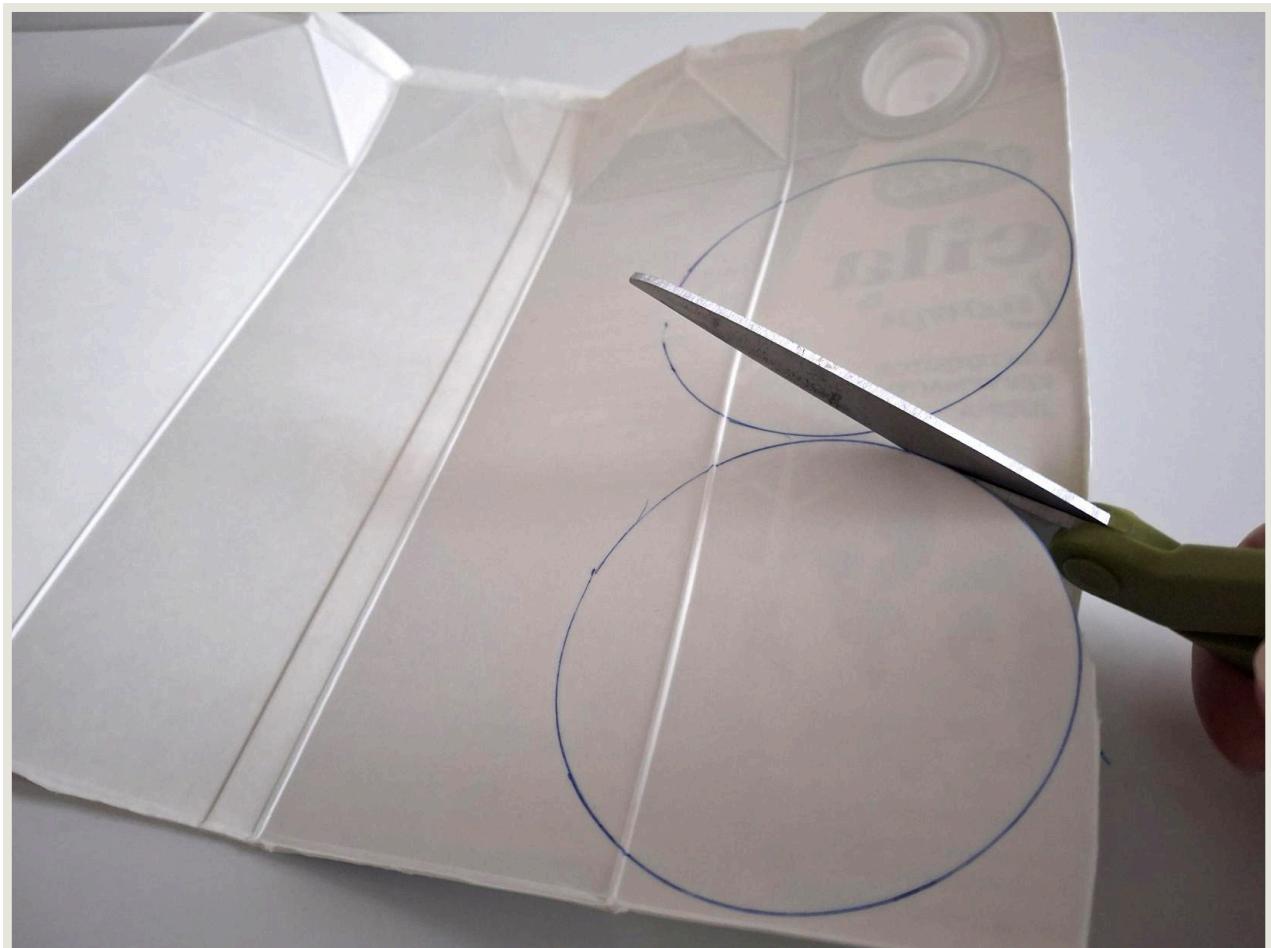
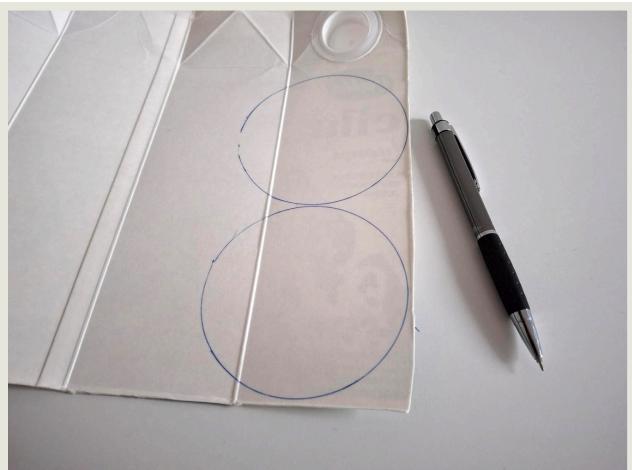
Multicolored pom pom with separate color areas: use yarns in multiple colors, but wind each color onto its own section of the cardboard frame.

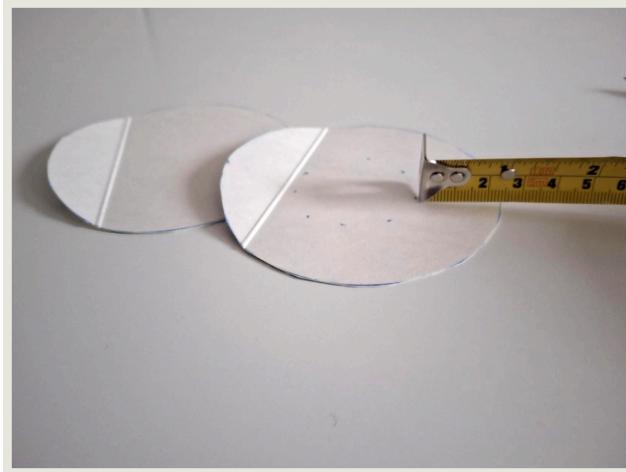
Multicolored pom pom with evenly distributed colors: make a small bundle from all the yarn colors you want and wind the yarns around the cardboard frame all at once.

**1.** Take a suitable piece of cardboard and draw two circles on it, for example using a coffee cup as a template. The size of the circle will determine the size of the pom pom. Cardboard from a rinsed milk carton works well for this.



**2.** Cut the circles out of the cardboard.





**3.** Measure approximately one third of the circle's diameter from the edge of the cardboard circle toward the center (in this example, the diameter was about 10 cm and the distance from the edge about 2.5 cm), and mark

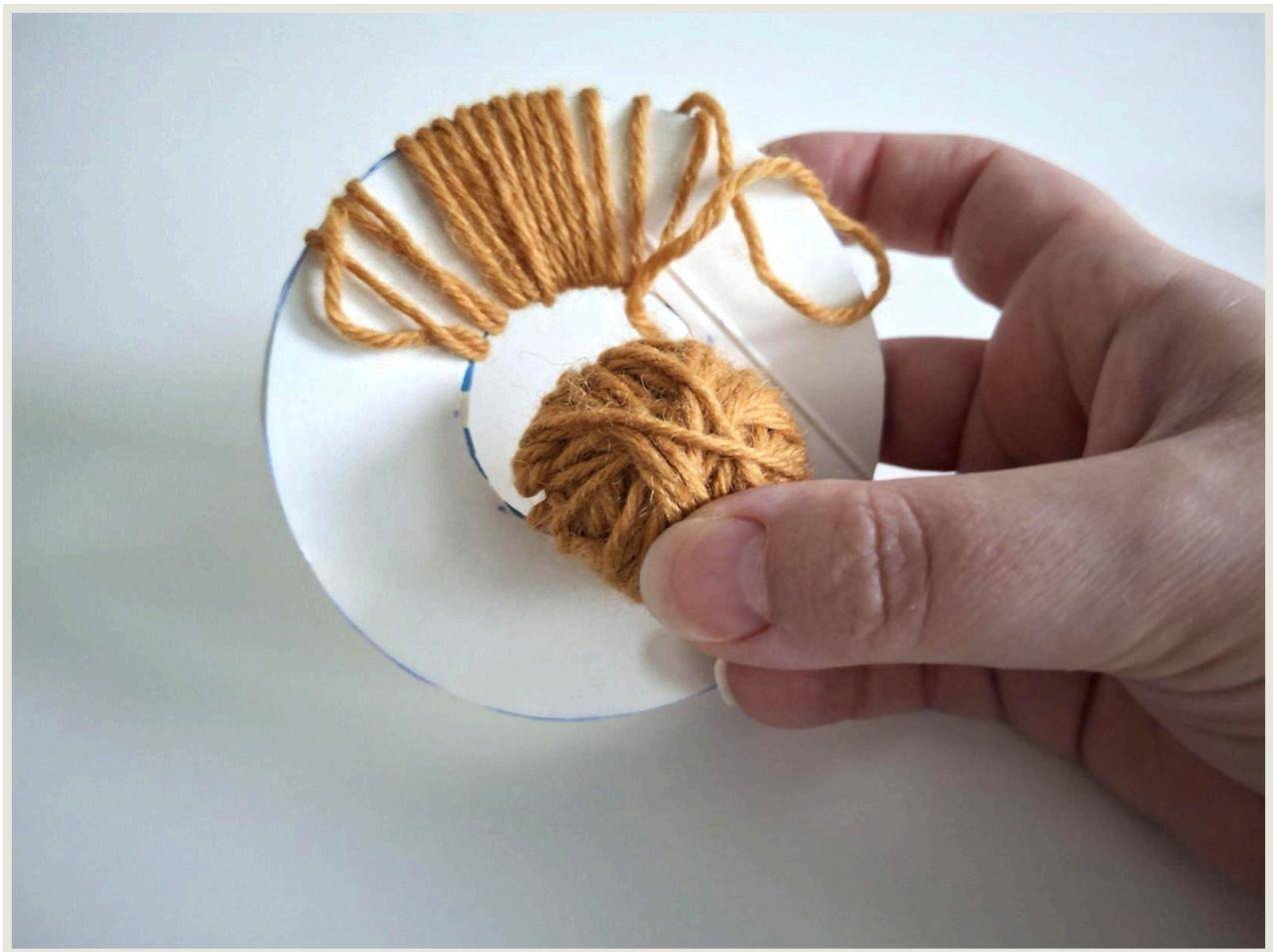
this measurement in several places. The marks will form a smaller circle inside the cardboard circle. Cut out the inner circle. Use the resulting hole to trace the inner circle onto another piece of cardboard and cut that out as well.



**4.** You now have two doughnut-shaped cardboard rings. To make winding the yarn faster, you can cut a small slit into the rings.

**5.** Take some yarn and wind it into a small ball. The ball should be just small enough to fit through the hole in the cardboard frames. Cut the yarn.





**6.** Place the two cardboard frames together and begin wrapping the yarn evenly around them. When you run out of yarn, wind a new small ball and continue from where you left off.

**7.** Continue until you can no longer fit a reasonably sized yarn ball through the hole. Cut the yarn.





**8.** Gently push the yarn aside at the edge of the frame until you can see the cardboard. Slip your scissors between the two cardboard frames and carefully cut through the yarn all the way around. Inside the frames there is now a big bundle of yarn strands.



**9.** Take a piece of yarn about 30 cm long and slip it between the two cardboard frames. Tie it tightly around the bundle of yarn, using at least two knots. If the pom pom is large or the yarn is brittle, use a double strand of yarn.





**10.** Cut the cardboard away from the pom pom and fluff the pom pom a little. Trim the ends of the tying yarn to match the length of the other strands. You don't need to shape the pom pom, but you can neaten it with scissors if you wish. You can reuse the cardboard rings by taping the cut edges closed before starting a new pom pom.

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# Marimo Pom Pom with a square cardboard frame



## Colors:

Use different shades of green, yellow, brown, and red.

## Materials:

Use soft yarns, weft materials, and cords of all thicknesses and from all materials. Dense cotton yarns and cords are not suitable for this technique, as the center of the pom-pom needs to be able to compress.

## Tools:

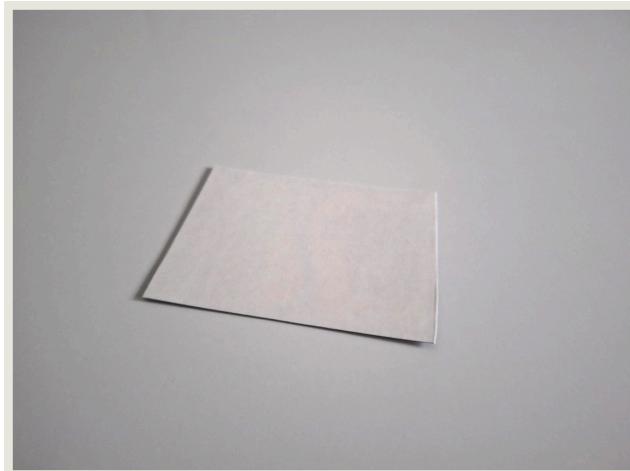
A piece of cardboard and sharp scissors.

## Instructions:

Single-color pom pom: use yarn in only one color.

Multicolored pom pom with separate color areas: use yarns in multiple colors, but wind each color onto its own section of the cardboard frame.

Multicolored pom pom with evenly distributed colors: hold the ends of all the yarn colors you want together and wind them around the pom pom frame as one bundle.



**1.** Cut a rectangular or square piece of cardboard in the size you want. The size of the cardboard piece will determine the size of the pom pom.

**2.** Take some yarn and begin wrapping it around the cardboard frame. When it is nicely full, cut the yarn. The amount of wrapping depends on the size of the pom pom: larger pom poms need more fullness, while smaller ones require less.





**3.** Slip your scissors between the wrapped yarn and the cardboard frame on one edge. Hold the entire bundle firmly so it doesn't come apart. Cut through the yarn. Turn the bundle carefully and cut through the yarn on the opposite edge as well. Remove the cardboard frame and place the bundle of yarn on the table.





**4.** Take a piece of yarn about 30 cm long and place it underneath the bundle. Tie it tightly around the yarn bundle, using at least two knots. If the pom pom is large, use a double strand of yarn.



**5.** Trim the ends of the tying yarn to match the length of the other strands. You don't need to shape the pom pom, but you can neaten it with scissors if you wish.



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# Chorda miniature rya with a crochet or ready base



## Colors:

Use different shades of green, yellow, brown, and red.

## Materials:

Yarns, weft materials, and cords of all thicknesses and from all materials.

## Tools:

Crocheted base: crochet hook, tapestry needle, and scissors.

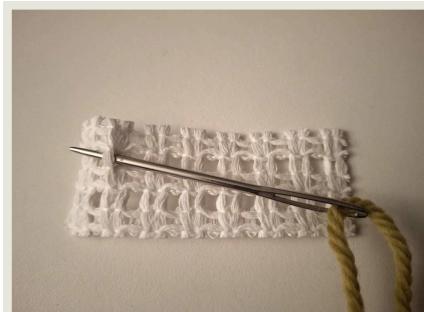
Ready-made base: rya backing fabric, tapestry needle, and scissors.

## Instructions:

A mini rya piece can be made onto a crocheted base or a ready-made base. If you are using a ready-made base, skip step 1 of the instructions.

When working with a ready-made base, you can use a tapestry needle and the rya knot. Follow step 2 of the instructions, but thread the yarn bundle into the tapestry needle and make a rya knot as shown in instructions A-B below.

**A.** Insert the needle through the center of the two-part post and bring it out through the large hole on the left. Pull the yarn through and leave a tail.



**B.** Insert the needle through the large hole on the right side of the two-part post and bring it out through the center of the post. Tighten the yarn.





**1.** Crochet a rya base in a post mesh pattern to your desired size, for example  $3 \times 5$  cm. It is recommended to use the same color yarn as for the fringe strands.

For example:

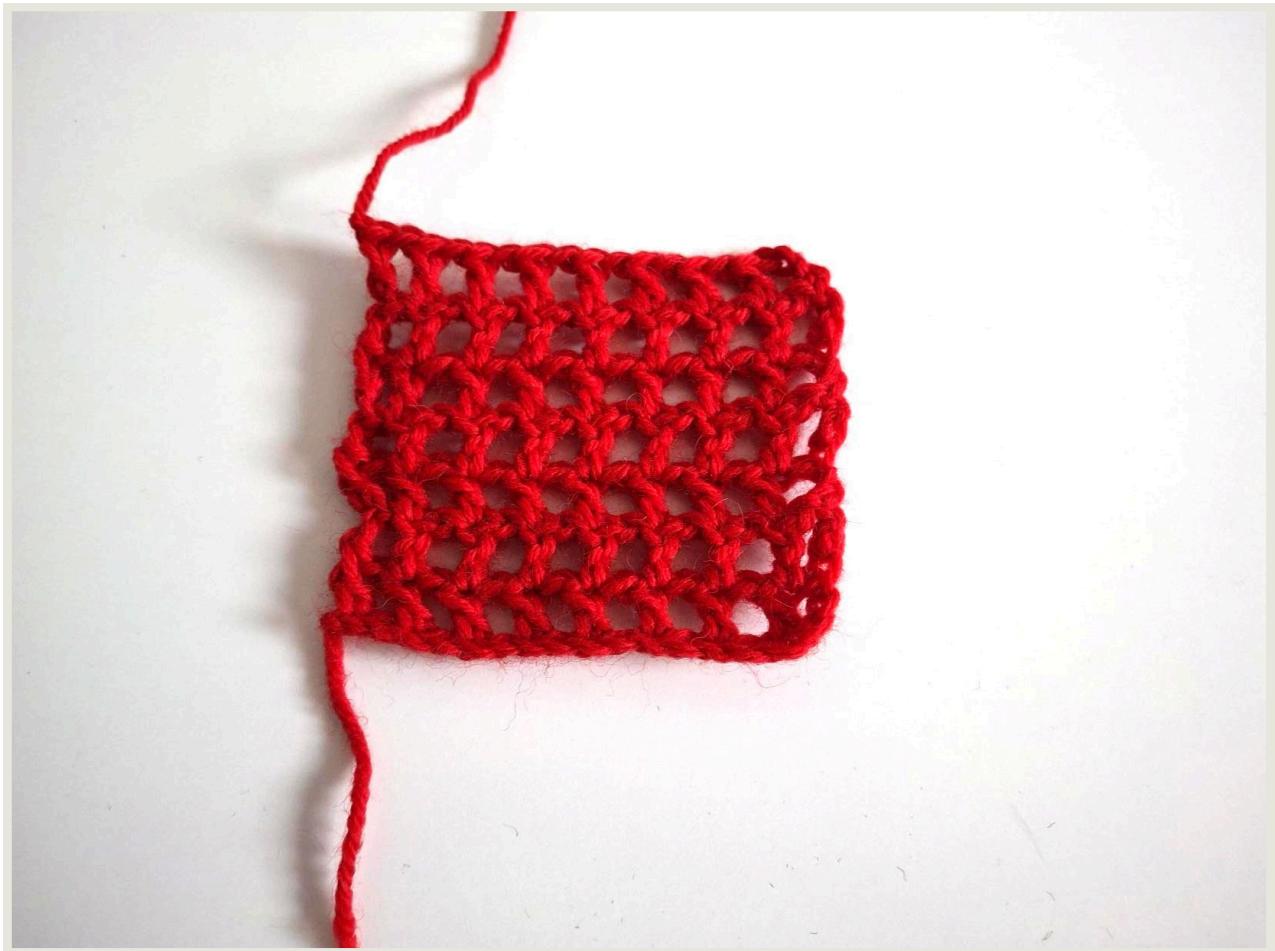
**I.** Crochet 19 chain stitches (ch) (to make it narrower, reduce by 2 ch; to make it wider, add 2 ch).

**II.** Make a double crochet (dc) in the 5th chain stitch.

**III.** ch, skip the next ch, dc, repeat - to the end of the chain.

**IV.** 3 ch, turn.

Repeat steps b-d until the piece is square. Fasten off.





**2.** Count how many double-crochet posts (dc stitches) your base has. Do not count the outermost edge posts. Cut yarn in the colours and lengths you want, and make as many bundles as there are posts in your work. Make sure each bundle can fit through the mesh hole when folded in half. If you are using a thick yarn, one strand may be enough.





**3.** Fold each bundle in half and, using a crochet hook large enough, pull the looped end through underneath the first double-crochet post.



**4.** Pull the loop large enough to draw the ends of the bundle through it, using either the crochet hook or your fingers.



**5.** Tighten gently, and repeat until every double-crochet post has a bundle of yarn attached.

