Minnow, a micro ami

Minnow is 3 ¾ inches tall.

Materials:
- Size 10 crochet cotton for doll body
- Size 6 steel crochet hook for doll, size 3 steel hook for the wig cap.
- Small amount of fiberfill or wool stuffing
- Embroidery floss for eyes, mouth, and hair (hair can also be made with size 10 crochet cotton, or laceweight or fingering weight yarn)

Gauge: 9sc = 1 inch with size 6 steel hook

This little ami is made in two pieces; the body and the head. The body is worked seamlessly, with the exception of two tiny stitches under each arm to close the small opening there. The head is made separately and jointed to the neck stub of the body.

The arms are crocheted first, then the body is worked from the legs up. When you get to the chest, the arms are crocheted into the body and all is worked as one piece.

Arms: worked in the round with no join. I do not stuff the arms.
1: Ch2, seven sc in the second ch from the hook.
2-8: Sc in each sc around. 7 sc
9: Two sc in the first sc, sc in the remaining six sc. Fasten off leaving a tail to sew the underarm hole closed. 8 sc.

Legs: worked in the round with no join. Stuff the leg lightly.

From the left, this image shows the two legs crocheted (the second leg with the two chains that form the crotch); the legs joined; and the first round of the torso completed.

1: Ch2, eight sc in the second ch from the hook. 8sc.
2-11: Sc in each sc around. 8sc. At the end of the first leg, fasten off. At the end of the second leg, do NOT fasten off; chain two, then join with a sc to the first leg. Sc in the remaining seven sc of the first leg, sc in the two ch, then sc in each sc of the second leg. Sc in the the two chain. Legs are now joined. 20 sc. Do NOT fasten off.

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The picture far left shows the torso complete through round 7. The pin marks the end of the round. To join the first arm, single crochet until you reach the other side of the body, shown in the second picture. Third and fourth pictures show crocheting the arms to the body.

**Torso:** worked in the round with no join. Mark your place with a stitch marker as you work around.

1: Sc in each sc around. 20 sc.
2: Sc in each sc round. 20 sc.
3: (Sc in the next three sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 16 sc.
4: (Sc in the next two sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 12 sc.
5-7: Sc in each sc around. 12 sc.
8: Depending where you are at the back of the doll, sc until you reach the first side of the doll, hold the first arm against the doll's body and crochet all around the arm (8 sc), then sc in the next sc of the body and across to the other side of the doll. Hold the second arm next to the body and crochet all around the arm (8 sc), then sc in the next sc of the body and the remaining sc on the body up to the stitch marker. 28 sc.
9: (Sc in the next sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 19 sc. Stuff the body firmly.
10: (Sc in the next sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 13 sc.
11: (Sc in the next sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 9 sc.
12-16: Sc in each sc around. 9 sc. This creates the neck stub. Stuff the chest and neck firmly.
17: (Sc next two sc tog) around and finish off.

With the yarn tails from each arm, stitch closed the tiny openings under each arm. Bury the yarn tails in the body.

*This image illustrates the neck stub, and sewing the small opening under the arm closed.*
Head: There are several pictures of making the head, and also embroidering the face.

The image above illustrates how the first five rounds of the head are crocheted. You begin with 8sc crocheted in a row, then join this row to create the neck opening. You will stuff the head through this opening, and also insert the neck stub into it for the move-able head.

1: Ch9, then work sc in the second ch from the hook and each ch across. 8 sc.
2: You have a short length of single crochet stitches. Make a ring out of this short length and join it by working two sc into the first sc of the row 1. Work two sc in each sc around. 16sc.
3: (Sc in the next sc, two sc in the next sc) around. 24sc
4: (Sc in the next two sc, two sc in the next sc) around. 32sc
5: (Sc in the next three sc, two sc in the next sc) around. 40 sc
6-15: Sc in each sc around. 40 sc.
16: (Sc in the next three sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 32 sc
17: (Sc in the next two sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 24 sc
18: (Sc in the next sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 16 sc
19: (Sc next two sc tog) around. 8 sc
20: (Sc next two sc tog) around, fasten off. Leave a long tail to embroider the nose.

This image shows the head in progress, and stuffing the head with a small hemostat. You want the head to be firm and round without stretching the stitches.

Although it is a small opening, you can indeed stuff the head through the neck opening. Do so with hemostats and a small stuffing tool. Make the head a nice, round, solid ball, and work an opening up into the neck that the neck stub will fit into.

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Facial features.

You can use small beads or button for eyes, or embroider them as I did. To embroider the face, I suggest you purchase a Frixion erasable pen. It makes a dark mark on your work, but disappears with the application of a hot iron.

I mark the eye placement with two black glass head pins. I like my eyes located at the midpoint of the face. The eyes are embroidered over two rows. Mark the eye shape with the Frixion pen around the location of your glass head pins. Mark a line defining the top of the eye and the outside corner of the eye, and also the eyebrow.

Embroider the eye color first, over two rows of stitches and roughly three sc stitches wide using satin stitch. I used three strands of embroidery floss for the eye color, and two strands for the rest of the embroidery work.

After the eye color is done, embroider the pupil (the black part) over the eye color part, leaving eye color showing at the sides and bottom of the eye. With white, embroider one or two stitches on either side and under the eye, and take a tiny stitch for eyelight at the side of each pupil.

With dark brown, embroider the line defining the top and outer corner of the eye with straight stitches. Embroider the eyebrows with dark brown straight stitch.

After the embroidery is complete, run a warm iron over the face lightly until any visible marking lines disappear.

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For the nose, use the tail at the top of the head and make two or three straight stitches between the eyes and one row below them.

A tiny mouth can be embroidered with rose, pink, red, or salmon embroidery floss. A small straight stitch, an offset straight stitch, a V stitch for a smile.

Simple ears are made on either side of the face. For the left ear, slip stitch in the same row as the mouth, positioned on the side of the head. Make three sc in the next row up, then sl st in the next row and fasten off. Repeat the procedure for the right ear, but join your sl st in the same row as the top of the left ear and work down. Use the thread tails to shape the ear at the bottom and top, then bury the ends in the head. I like to place the ears low on the head; maybe lower than you like. Pick a placement and see if you like it...if not it is easy enough to pull out the stitches and try again :-)

Blush the cheeks with crayon. Rub it on the face, then use a soft cotton cloth to rub the color into the stitches.

Assembly:

To attach the head, thread a dollmaking needle with double strand of craft thread. Insert the needle at the top of the head and bring it out through the neck along the side of the head, making sure not to catch any of the head stitches. Run the needle through the base of the neck stub, then back into the head at the neck opening and out the top of the head. Gently pull the neck stub into the head and seat it down on the neck. Tie off the craft thread at the top of the head with a double

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knot and bury the ends in the head.

Hair:

I always make a wig cap when making hair for crochet dolls. This way your scalp will never show through the strands of hair, and it is a great base for just about any hairstyle.

The number of stitches and rounds required for your cap will depend on the thread or yarn you choose. I always start a cap with eight sc worked in the round. I expand this working in the round by 16, 24, 32 stitches and check the fit on the doll's head. If 32 stitches doesn't look wide enough, go to 36 or 40 stitches, then work evenly until the cap covers the head with a hairline you like.

Use a hook two or three sizes larger than the one you used for the body. I used a size 3 steel hook for the wig cap with embroidery floss.

To make crocheting with embroidery floss easier, wrap the skein of floss around a floss bobbin. This could be a piece of cardboard, a clothespeg, an empty crochet cotton reel, or an empty thread reel.

Work in the front loops only, leaving the back loop of each stitch free. You can hook your hair strands into these free loops after the wig cap is finished and sewn to the head.

The top row illustrates fitting the wig cap as you go to the head. The bottom row show just one style you can create with this: a French braid with curly bangs. The bangs are done with chain loops worked in the front and the back of the last row of stitches across the forehead.

Example: using embroidery floss for the wig cap and hair. Work the entire wig cap in the Front Loops Only. One skein of floss should be sufficient to make the wig cap, but if not, tie on another skein to finish.

1: Ch2, eight sc in the second ch fro the hook. 8sc
2: Two sc in each sc around. 16sc
3: (Sc in the next st, two sc in the next st) around. 24sc
4: (Sc in the next two sts, two sc in the next st) around. 32 sc
5-9: Sc in each sc around. 32 sc. Leave a long tail to sew the cap to the head.

Sew the cap to the head with the free loops out. For long full coverage hair, cut 140 strands of embroidery floss 9 inches long.

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long.  This will require about six more skeins of floss.

Hook your hair strands beginning with the last row of the wig cap and working toward the beginning of the cap.

Begin by hooking one strand around each stitch on the last round of the wig cap. On the second round, hook every other stitch at the back and sides, then in every stitch across the top of the cap. On the third through sixth or seventh row, hook every other stitch, and on the remaining rows (you are working toward the beginning point of the wig cap) hook a strand in every third stitch.

After all the strands are hooked in place, gently comb out the strands, first with your fingers, then with a comb. You want to separate the plies of embroidery floss; this will make it looks more like hair. Then trim your girls hair and you're done!

Other styles are possible with the wig cap. You can create pigtails or ponytails, crochet curls, add bangs, whatever you imagine you can make :-)

Making braids or pigtails: crochet the cap, then crochet a chain to make the center part. Hook floss strands into both sides of the chain, then sew to the wig cap. Hook strands of floss into the last round on the wig cap, then braid each side, or pull into ponytails.

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Here you can see many of the different hair styles and facial features you can give your minnow :-)

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1/15/2017
Minnow's Smallclothes *(this is the term used in Regency times for underwear; I love it!)*

**Materials:**
- Size 20 crochet cotton
- Size 8 or 9 steel crochet hook
- 3/16 inch buttons or 4mm pearls for buttons

**Gauge:**
- 12sc = 1 inch with size 9 hook
- 10sc = 1 inch with a size 8 hook

*Note: depending on how tightly you want the clothing to fit, use either a size 8 or a size 9 steel crochet hook. For underwear, I used the 9 hook; for most of the clothing, the 8 hook.*

Rib = two sc rows
Link stitch = (ch3, dc in the base of the last stitch made) makes one link. Work as many links as required in the instructions. The link consists of two sides, one the dc side and one the 3ch side. When working sc in the link, work over just one of the sides.

**Camisole:** the body of the camisole is worked side to side to fit around the body of the doll. The work is then turned sideways to finish the armhole, neck edge, and bottom edge.
1: Ch6, sc in the second ch from the hook and each ch across, ch1, turn. 5Sc

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2-18: Working in the back loops only, sc in each sc across, ch1, turn. 5Sc

At the end of row 18, turn the work so you are working across the bottom edge of the camisole. Work (three sc in the first rib, two sc in the next rib) across. 23Sc

Turn the work so you are working up one side of the camisole and slip stitch loosely in the next five sts. Ch1.

Turn the work so you are working across the top edge of the camisole. Work two sc in each rib across, ch1, turn. 18sc.

Neck edge: you will work back and forth across the neck edge for the next two rows.

1: Working in the front loops, sc in the next three sc, work three link stitches, skip the next three sc, sc in the next six sc, work three link stitches, sc in the last three sc, ch1, turn. The armhole openings are now made.

2: Sc in the first three sc, work 2sc in each link stitch, sc in the next six sc, work 2sc in each link stitch, sc in the last three sc. 24sc.

Turn the work so you are working down the other side of the camisole. Ch3, skip the next row, sl st in the next row (one buttonhole loop made), sl st in the next four stitches, ch3, skip next st, sl st in the next sc (second buttonhole loop made).

Bottom edge: (Ch4, skip next st, sl st in the back loop of the next st) across. Fasten off leaving a long tail to sew the buttons on with.

Weave in the loose ends and sew two 4mm pearls opposite the buttonhole loops. If you like, you can work a contrasting trim of (sl st, ch1) in the free loops at the bottom, bust, and around the neckline.

Pantaloons:

Materials:
-Size 20 crochet cotton
-Size 9 steel crochet hook

The beginning ch2 does NOT count as the first dc.

Chain 80 tightly. This will be the drawstring for the waist. The waistband is crocheted around this chain length.

1: Fold the chain in half to find the midpoint, then work 20sc around the chain beginning ½ inch from the midpoint of the chain, ch1, turn. 20 sc.

2: Sc in each sc across, ch2, turn. 20 sc

3: Dc in the same st as the ch2 (2dc in the next st, dc in the next st) across. Join, ch2, do not turn. 30dc.

4: Dc in each st across, join, ch1, do not turn. 30 dc

Legs:

5: Skip the first 15dc, join in the 16th dc, ch2, dc in the same st and the remaining 14dc and the ch1 at the crotch. Join, ch2, do not turn. 16dc

6: (Dc in the next two dc, dc next two dc tog) across, join, ch1, do not turn. 12dc.

7: Sc in each st across, join, ch4, do not turn. 12sc.

8: (Skip next sc, sl st in the back loop of the next sc, ch4) across. Fasten off.

Join thread in the first unworked st of round 4 and work rounds 5 through 8 for the second leg.

Weave in the threads and pull onto the doll, tie the ties in the back and you are done!

These two patterns can be used to make an entire wardrobe for your minnow. For example:

1. Make a dress. On the bottom edge of the camisole, work a skirt into the stitches by either two or three dc in each stitch across. Join, then continue working evenly until the skirt is the length desired.

2. Make rompers. On the bottom edge of the camisole, work the pantaloons by working (dc in the first two sts, 2dc in the next) across. This should give you 30 dc stitches. Join and work evenly one more row, then divide for the legs as for the
pantaloons, skipping the first 15 sts, then working in the next 15 sts and the chain sts at the crotch. Work the leg to the length desire (should only take one or two more rows), then repeat for the second leg.

3. Make a top and pants(or shorts) by working as for the rompers, but use two different colors for the top and pants.

4. Add sleeves to the camisole by joining thread with a sc in the first unused st under the arm, sc in the next two sts, (3dc) in each link across the top of the armhole, then join to the first sc. This will make a tight fitting short sleeve. Looser sleeves can be made by working 5dc in the middle link across the top of the armhole opening. Ruffled sleeve caps can be worked by increasing the number of dc sts in the links across the top. Longer sleeves made by working more rows for the sleeve (but it doesn't take many!).

5. Add a bib to the pantaloons and make overalls. These could be worn as is, or over a shirt made from the camisole pattern.

Examples of a dress, rompers, shirt and pants, and long sleeve shirt and overalls.