Crocheted Alligator

Materials Needed:
Worsted weight yarn: You'll need 2 skeins, one for the main color, plus another color for the back ridges. You will also need bits of black, white, and red or pink for the face.
H size crochet hook
Yarn needle
Polyester fiberfil

NOTES:

- Gauge isn't important. You just want to be sure that your stitches are tight enough that the stuffing won't show through. If you choose to use a different weight yarn, adjust the hook size accordingly.
- Alligator is worked in continuous rounds. You can join if you like.
- For decreases, I used the invisible decrease. It works well, especially when you have multiple decreases in a row. There is a great tutorial here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OUBbOZ1Ennk

Abbreviations:

- Inc: increase. Work 2 sc in same stitch
- Inc x2: work 2 increases. Do 2 sc in first st, then 2 more sc in second stitch
- Dec: decrease by sc2tog.
- Dec x2 or x3: work 2 or 3 decreases in a row as pattern notes

Starting at the snout: (be sure to stuff as you go)

1) Ch 6, sc in second ch from hook and in next 3 ch. In last ch 3 sc. Continuing on other side of the ch, 1 sc in next 3 ch, 3 sc in last ch. Place marker.
2) Sc 4, inc, sc 2, inc, sc 5, inc, sc 2, inc, sc in last 2 sts.
3) Sc 4, inc, sc 2, inc, sdc 5, inc, sc 2, inc, sc in last 2.
4) Sc 5, inc, sc 2, inc, sc 8, inc, sc 2, inc sc 2.
5) Sc 5, inc x2, sc 2, inc x2, sc 7, inc x2, sc 2, inc x2, sc 4
6) Sc 6, inc, sc 2, inc x2, sc 2, inc, sc 9, inc, sc 2, inc x2, sc 2, inc, sc 3
7) Rounds 7 - 27: sc around
28) Sc 10, dec x2, sc 18, dec x2, sc 6
29) Sc 9, dec x3, sc 13, dec x3, sc 4

30) Sc 8, dec x3, sc 10, dec x3, sc 2
31) Rounds 31 – 33: sc around
34) Sc 8, inc, sc 2, inc, sc 9, inc, sc 2, inc, sc 1
35) Sc 10, inc x 3, sc 12, inc x3, sc 2
36) Sc around
37) Sc 13, inc x2, sc 17, inc x2, sc 3
38) Sc 12, inc x4, sc 19, inc x4, sc 4
39) Rounds 39 – 44: sc around
45) Sc 17, inc x4, sc 19, inc x4, sc 4
46) Sc 18, inc x4, sc 25, inc x4, sc 5
47) Rounds 47-61: sc around
62) Sc 22, dec x4, sc 26, dec x4
63) Sc 20, dec x4, sc 22, dec x3
64) Dc, sc in remaining stitches to end of round
65) Dc, sc 16, dc x2, sc 23, dec
66) Dec, sc 14, dec x3, sc 17, dec x2
67) Rounds 67 – 70: sc around
71) Dc, sc 12, dec x3, sc 12, dec x2
72) Rounds 72 – 76: sc around
77) Dec x2, sc 9, dec x 3, sc 8, dec
78) Rounds 78 – 85: sc around
86) Sc 3, dec, sc 7, dec, sc 6
87) Rounds 87 – 91: sc around
92) Sc 4, dec x2, sc 5, dec x2, sc 1
93) Rounds 93 – 95: sc around
96) Sc 4, dec x 2, sc 1, dec x2
97) Rounds 97 – 99: sc around
Last round: Dec x5. Break yarn, weave through ends, and pull to close.

Eyes (Make 2 using same color as body)

1) Ch 4, sc in 2nd ch from hook, sc 2, 3 sc in next st, 2 sc, 3 sc in last stitch
2) Sc 2, inc, sc, inc. Repeat once more.
3) Rounds 3 – 5: sc around. Finish off, leaving a long tail for attaching to head.

Back ridges (Make 8 – 10… Your preference. Use color you chose for these)

1) Using magic loop method, 6 sc in loop
2) Inc in each st around (12 sts)
3) Sc around
4) Sc around. Finish off, leaving a long tail for attaching to body

Finishing

Using a bit of black yarn, embroider eyes as pictured onto the eyes you crocheted. Stuff and attach to head, using the photo as a guide.

Flatten the back ridges and sew to the back into 2 lines as pictured. You can add more or less ridgeyes as pictured onto the eyes you crocheted. Stuff and attach to head, using the photo as a guide.

Flatten the back ridges and sew to the back into 2 lines as pictured. You can add more or less ridges as desired. I only used 8 total.

Using white yarn and yarn needle, sew a zig zag pattern for teeth as pictured. Using a strand of red or pink yarn, place it across center of teeth and tack into place.