

ReefSeek - Ocean Education Through Art

Crochet Coral Patterns!

Free to use for anyone! (Basic amigurumi crochet techniques are needed! But no stitches outside an single crochet, increase, and single crochet with multiple yarn overs are needed for all these patterns)

Here are the crochet abbreviations I will use (Just in case anyone is used to other terms!) I've tried to make the patterns as detailed and beginner friendly as possible so beginners can follow along as well!

CROCHET ABBREVIATIONS	
ALT - alternate	LP - loop
APPROX - approximately	M - marker
BEG - begin/beginning	MC - main color
BET - between	PAT - pattern
BL/BLO - back loop/back loop only	PC - popcorn stitch
BO - bobble	PM - place marker
BP - back post	PREV - previous
BPDC - back post double crochet	PS/PUFF - puff stitch
BPDTR - back post double treble crochet	REM - remaining
BPHDC - back post half double crochet	RND(S) - round(s)
BPSC - back post single crochet	REP - repeat
BPTR - back post treble crochet	RS - right side
CC - contrast color	SC - single crochet
CH - chain	SH - shell
CH-SP - chain space	SC2TOG - single crochet 2 stitches together
CL - cluster	SC DEC - single crochet decrease
CONT - continue	SK - skip
DC - double crochet	SL ST - slip stitch
DC2TOG - double crochet 2 stitches together	SM/SL M - slip marker
DEC - decrease	SP - space
DTR - double treble	ST - stitch
EDC - extended double crochet	TBL - through back loop
EHDC - extended half double crochet	TCH or T-CH - turning chain
ESC - extended single crochet	TOG - together
ETR - extended treble crochet	TR - treble crochet
FL/FLO - front loop/front loop only	TRTR - triple treble crochet
FOLL - following	TR2TOG - treble crochet 2 stitches together
FP - front post	WS - wrong side
FPDC - front post double crochet	YO - yarn over
FPDTR - front post double treble crochet	YOH - yarn over hook
FPHDC - front post half double crochet	[] or () - work instructions within brackets as many times as directed
FPSC - front post single crochet	* - repeat the instructions following the single asterisk as directed
FPTR - front post treble crochet	** - repeat instructions between asterisks as many times as directed or repeat from a given set of instructions
FSC - foundation single crochet	
HDC - half double crochet	
HDC2TOG - half double crochet 2 stitches together	
INC - increase	

ALLFREECROCHET

For more patterns, tips, and inspiration, visit www.allfreecrochet.com

Small Note: Many parts of creating coral can be customized to your liking!

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Brain Coral



Brain coral are by far the simplest to crochet and assemble! In the ocean, they are breathtaking structures that can grow into six foot tall hemispheres on the reef floor with hypnotizing grooves being their most identifiable characteristic.

Crocheting Ruffle Circles:

Row 1: Make a magic circle, SC x6 into circle (leave a long tail length for sewing material)

Row 2: INC. x6

Row 3 and onwards: INC. in each stitch, and add as many INC. rows as you want! The coral should start to fold in on itself after multiple rows of increasing and create a ruffle pattern on the outer edge of the circle.



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Once you are happy with the size of the circle and the intensity of the ruffles, SL ST. and cut working yarn to tie off the piece.

Repeat the process above two more times to make two more ruffle circles for a total of three.

Assembly:

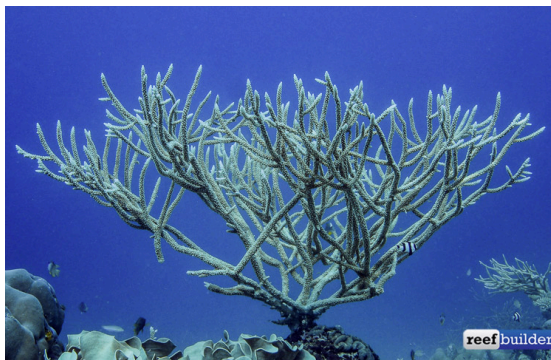
1. Line up the three circles so that the ruffles fit within each other. They should naturally form the iconic grooves!

2. Using either the tail end from the circles or another length of yarn, connect the three circles in your chosen orientation by stringing your sewing length through the middle and secure it with a nice knot.

Cut any loose ends!



Staghorn Coral



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Staghorn coral is tedious to crochet because it involves attaching a lot of different pieces together. Staghorn expands through the process of branching growth, meaning the polyps are constantly creating new growths that deviate from the original column.

Base Column

Row 1: Make a magic circle, SC x6 into circle

Row 2-4: SC x6

Row 5: INC x6

Row 6 and onwards: SC x12 (until you like the length of your base)

Pull through working yarn and cut.



Branch One

Row 1: Make a magic circle, SC x6 into circle

Row 2 and onwards: SC. x6 (Until you like the length of your branch!)

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Attach Column One to Base: Put hook through one stitch on the base, and then one stitch on the branch, and SC. Repeat this 2 more times so a section of the branch is now attached to the base. 3 stitches should be joined together now!



After each attachment, I will start again at row one since everyone might have different row and stitch counts!

Row 1-2: SC around (one row should now include the outer stitches of both the base and the branch)

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Row 3: SC x1, DEC x 1

Row 4: SC around

Pull through working yarn and cut

Branch Two and Three

Row 1: Make a magic circle, SC x6

Row 2-8: SC x6

Cut working yarn and pull through to tie off stitch. Repeat this section to make two little branches.

Attach branches two and three

Put hook through one stitch on branch 3, and then one stitch on branch 2, and SC. Repeat this 2 more times so a section of branch 2 is now attached to the branch 3. 3 stitches should be joined together now!



Row 1: SC around

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Row 2-3: (SC x1, DEC x1) around

Row 4 and onwards: SC around until you are happy with the length of your branch!



Once ready, stuff both of your pieces so you don't have to later.

Full Piece

Attach base + branch one to branch two + branch three

Put hook through one stitch of branch 2+3 and then a stitch in base+branch 1 and SC. Repeat this 3 more times for a total of four joint stitches.



Row 1-2: SC around

Row 3: (SC x1, DEC x1) around

Row 4 and onwards: SC around until you are happy with the length of the stem.

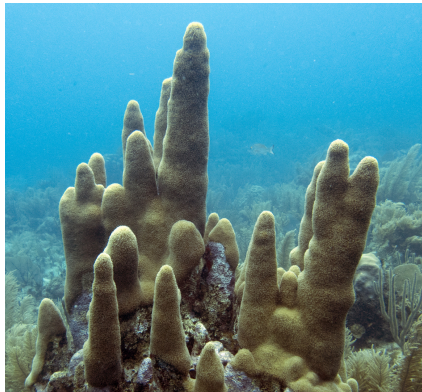
Row 5: DEC around and tie off!

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To make staghorn coral more exciting, I like to make multiple of these whole pieces and then attach them together to make larger staghorns that look like the branches on real-life coral!

Pillar Coral



Pillar coral are unique because of their strictly upward growth. Columns of polyps building off of each other allow tall corals like these to reach for more sunlight while using their common base for structure. The process of crocheting them also involves a lot of attaching, but less variable pieces.

Row 1: Make a magic circle and SC 6 into magic circle.

Row 2: INC around

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Row 3 and onwards: SC around until you have your desired height for the first pillar! Pull through working yarn and cut off.



Repeat this process 3 more times (for simpler pieces of pillar coral, you can make as many as you like!). Create variation in the height of each pillar. DO NOT CUT WORKING YARN ON LAST PILLAR! Pillars are addressed as pillars 1, 2 and 3 in respective order of creation!
Attach Pillars together

Put hook through one stitch in current pillar and then through a stitch in pillar 1 and SC. Repeat two more times for 3 joint stitches. Put hook through stitch in pillar 2 and then through a stitch in pillar 1 (and 3 which is attached now). Repeat two more times for three joint stitches.

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(I'd recommend stuffing the piece here!)

Row 1: SC around

Row 2-3: (SC x 1, DEC x1) around

(Stuff more if you need to here!)

Row 4: DEC around and tie off piece

Barnacles (Two Colors)



While barnacles are harmful to many ocean animals as painful growths, to some hard corals they provide another symbiotic relationship with a transfer of nutrients! It is rare to find them growing directly on corals, but it is not an uncommon sight to see them growing on surrounding rocks. Like coral, barnacles are very well adapted to growing on any hard surface they can find.

(Middle Piece)

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Color 1- Row 1: Make a magic circle, SC x 6 into circle

Row 2: INC x 6



Color change however you would like! (I like to tie off the first piece, and then with color 2, create a new loop in the last stitch, pull through with the hook so you have a tied new loop)

Carapace

Color 2-Row 1: SC around

Row 2: SC (YO four times and pull loop under each yarn over and then SC through previous loop) around

Row 3-4: SC around

Row 5: DEC around



Stuff and then tie off piece! Make multiple of different sizes and sew them together to form barnacles clusters!

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