



Crochet coral reef components

baw 7-7-2013

I used yarns from my stash, mostly worsted yarns with both rough and shiny textures, and various eyelash and novelty yarns. You can use any yarn or combination of yarns to make these components. Experiment and discover what beautiful forms you can create that mimic the beauty of the coral reef.

Brain corals and Lettuce corals

-worsted weight yarn (super save and caron simply soft). For contrasting trim you can use worsted yarn or eyelash yarn.

-size F crochet hook

For brain coral, chain 4, sl st to form a ring. Work six or eight sc in the ring. For each round, sc in the next two sc, two sc in the next. Work for 15 rounds. By round 11 the piece will begin to curl.



For a length of lettuce coral, ch13, sc in the second ch from hook, sc in the next ch, two sc in the next ch. *(sc in the next two sc, two sc in the next)* across. ch1. Repeat ** for eight rows. Change to color 2 and work two more ** rows.



Round sponges

- worsted weight yarn
- size F hook

Medium sponge:

- 1: ch2, eight sc in second ch from hook. 8sc
- 2: Two sc in each sc around. 16sc
- 3: (sc in the next three sc, two sc in the next) around. 20sc
- 4-7: sc in each sc around.
- 8: (sc in the next two sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 15sc
- 9: (sc in the next sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 10 sc
- 10: Sl st loosely around. Fasten off.



Small sponge:

- 1: ch2, eight sc in second ch from hook. 8sc
- 2: Two sc in each sc around. 16sc
- 3-5: sc in each sc around.
- 6: (sc in the next two sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 12sc
- 7: (sc in the next sc, sc next two sc tog) around. 8 sc
- 8: Sl st loosely around. Fasten off.

Base:

- 1: ch2, eight sc in second ch from hook. 8sc
- 2: Two sc in each sc around. 16sc
- 3: (Sc in the next sc, two sc in the next) around. 24sc
- 4: (Sc in the next two sc, sc in the next) around. 32sc
- 5: (Sc in the next three sc, sc in the next) around. 40. Finish off, leaving a long tail to tack your sponges to the base.

Make a colony of round sponges, 5 or 6, making some a bit shorter (fewer rounds) and some a bit taller (more rounds). Stitch loosely to the base.

A colony of tubular sponges can be made with this pattern, just work several more rounds evenly before decreasing the top of the sponges, to make them taller. You can lightly stuff them with fiberfill, depending on how stiff your crochet is.

Sea Anemone

- worsted yarn and eyelash yarn
- size F hook
- cardboard toilet paper or paper towel roll

Stem: worked in the **back loops only** for the entire stem with worsted yarn.

- 1: Ch15, sc in second ch from hook and next eight ch, hdc in the last five ch, ch1, turn. The hdc end will be the bottom of the stem.
- 2: Hdc in same st as ch1, hdc in next four sts, sc in the last nine sts, ch1, turn.
- 3-13: Sc in each sc and hdc in each hdc across.



14: sl st row 13 and row 1 together. At the top of the stem, ch1 and work one sc in the end of each row. Fasten off.

Flower: Hold worsted yarn and eyelash yarn together. The 'wrong' side of the work (facing away from you) will be the right side for the flower.

1: Ch2, seven sc in the second ch from hook.

2: Two sc in each sc around. At the end of round 2, hold the flower and the stem together and sc the two together around the top edge.

3: (Ch5, sl st in the second ch from hook and each ch, sl st in the next sc) repeat for each sc around the top. Finish off.

Stuff the top of the stem lightly with fiberfill. Cut a cardboard toilet paper role to fit inside the bottom of the stem. If it is too wide, slit it and roll it a bit tighter. Insert into the bottom end of the stem and glue in place.

You can make your anemone taller or shorter by altering the number of beginning chains.

Sea Urchin

-Eyelash type yarn

-size F hook

1: Ch2, 8 sc in second ch from hook.

2: Two sc in each sc around. 16sc

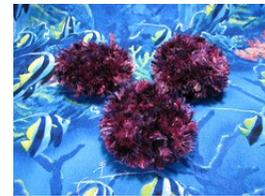
3: (Sc in the next st, two sc in the next) around. 24sc

4-5: Sc in each sc around.

6: (Sc in the next st, sc next two sc tog) around. 16sc. Fasten off.

The 'wrong' side of the work (the side facing away from you) is the right side for the sea urchin.

Different types of eyelash yarn will give your urchin a different look.



Branched corals

-worsted yarn

-size E crochet hook

The branched coral is a more free-form crochet, but very easy. I chained about 30 chains, then worked sc in the back bump of five chains. Chain several chains, sc in the back bump back to your original chain, sc in the back bump of the next few chain, then chain some more stitches, sc in them, chain a few before returning to the original chain...you get the idea. You want to make many branches shooting off from your original chain. As you do this, you will see your branched coral take shape in unexpected ways.



Dampen this piece and starch it with spray starch. Let dry.

