Ruffled coral reef

US terms



Finished size
About 6½ in (16.5 cm) across, 4¾ in (12 cm) from front to back and 4¾ in (12 cm) tall

Skill
Intermediate
Eleven pieces worked in rounds and sewn together.

Yarn
Medium (4), 6 colors

Hook
3.5 mm (US E-4)

Gauge
20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet, in a spiral.

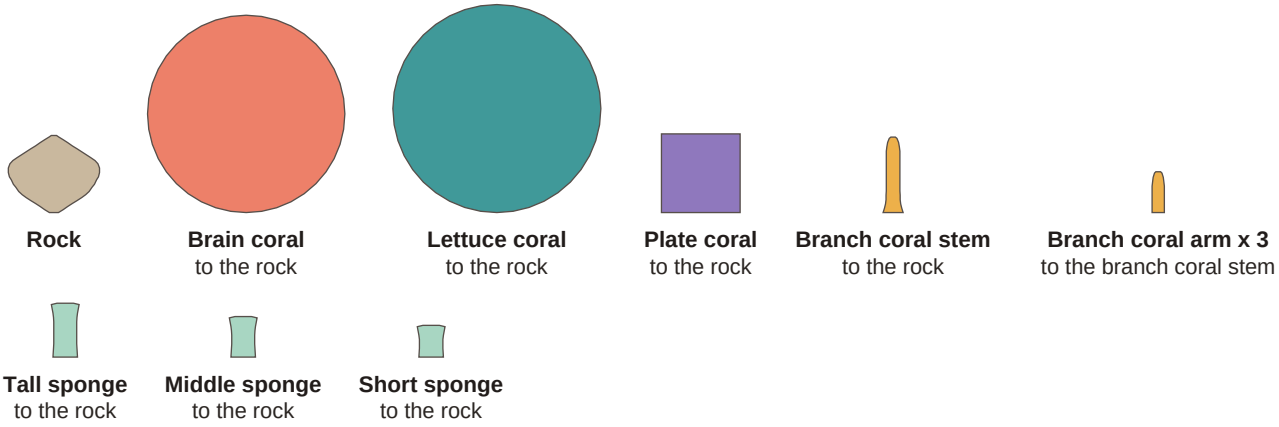
You will need

Yarn A: sandstone, rock	**about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: coral, brain coral and the details	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: teal, lettuce coral and the details	**about 30 yd (27 m), an estimate**
Yarn D: marigold, branch coral stem and branch coral arm	**about 30 yd (27 m), an estimate**
Yarn E: violet, plate coral and the details	**about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**
Yarn F: seafoam, tall sponge, middle sponge and short sponge	**about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**

Hook: 3.5 mm (US E-4), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: toy stuffing, a yarn needle, a stitch marker, pins and scissors.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

The pieces



For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
sc2tog	single crochet 2 stitches together, through the front loops only: how is under “Before you start” (UK dc2tog, double crochet 2 stitches together)
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
ch	chain stitch
MR	magic ring
RS	right side
Rnd	round
st	stitch
BLO	back loop only
yo	yarn over (UK yrh, yarn round hook)

Special stitches

bobble: [yarn over, insert hook in the stitch, pull up a loop, yarn over, pull through 2 loops] 4 times in the same stitch, yarn over, pull through all 5 loops (United Kingdom: a bobble of 4 trebles). Push it out to the right side. It leaves 1 st for the next round.

Gauge

20 stitches and 22 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet, in a spiral.

To check it, work a flat circle: 6 sc in a magic ring, then 6 more sc in each round (12, 18, 24, 30, 36). After round 6 it should measure about 2¼ in (5.5 cm) across. The stitches should be tight enough that the stuffing does not show.

Use any hook that gives you this. If you count more stitches than this in 4 in (10 cm), change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, to a smaller one.

Before you start

- Every piece is worked in a continuous spiral with the right side facing you: do not join and do not turn. Put the marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up.
- Square brackets hold a repeat; work it as many times as the line says. The number in parentheses is the count at the end of the round.
- The rule of a ruffle: the same increase in every round. In the brain coral 2 sc go into every stitch, in the lettuce coral into every second stitch, in the plate coral into every third; what is left over at the end of a round is worked plain. The oftener you increase, the tighter the folds. For a bigger ruffle work another round by the same rule.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work round 1 into the loop and pull the tail to close it. Or chain 2 and work round 1 into the first chain.
- Center line: places on a piece are given by round and by stitches from a center line. It is half way round from where the rounds begin. Mark it with a pin or a scrap of yarn as listed here, run it straight from round 1 to the last round by eye, and count out from it along the round, in stitches and half stitches.
- Rock: the center line runs between stitches 30 and 31 of round 10 (60 sts). It faces the front.
- Branch coral stem: the center line runs through the middle of stitch 7 of round 18 (13 sts). It faces the front, round 1 at the top.
- Right and left are as you look at the front of the reef. Rounds are counted from the start of each piece.
- Running stitches go in and out along a line.

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

- In every step of putting it together: where a piece meets or overlaps another, sew through both. Where no tail is left or a tail is too short, sew with a new length of the yarn of the piece you are putting on.
- To work sc2tog, put the hook under the front loop only of each of the next 2 stitches, yarn over, pull through both loops, yarn over, pull through 2 loops.
- No plastic eyes are used.
- The rounds and stitches are the same for every size; the yarn and the hook make the difference. Lengths in the words (tails, ovals, details) are for Standard, the size written here: for another size multiply them by the number in its line.
- Small: fine (2, sport) yarn, 2.25 mm (B-1) hook, 27 sc and 30 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 4¾ in (12 cm) across, 3½ in (8.9 cm) from front to back and 3½ in (8.9 cm) tall; multiply lengths by 0.74; about 0.74 times the yarn.
- Large: bulky (5, chunky) yarn, 5 mm (H-8) hook, 14 sc and 15.4 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 9¼ in (23.5 cm) across, 6¾ in (17 cm) from front to back and 6¾ in (17 cm) tall; multiply lengths by 1.4; about 1.4 times the yarn.
- Jumbo: super bulky (6, plush or velvet) yarn, 6.5 mm (K-10½) hook, 11 sc and 12.1 rounds to 4 in (10 cm): 11¾ in (30 cm) across, 8¾ in (22 cm) from front to back and 8¾ in (22 cm) tall; multiply lengths by 1.8; about 1.8 times the yarn.

Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a round is done. In UK terms sc is double crochet and sl st is slip stitch.

Rock

Yarn A, sandstone.

Round 1 is the middle of the base.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	6 sc in MR	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 8 sts**] 6 times**	**(60 sc)**

Mark the center line now: a pin or a scrap of yarn between stitches 30 and 31 of round 10. It faces the front.

☐ **Rnd 11**	Sc in BLO of each st around	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, bobble in next st**] 10 times**	**(60 sts)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in each st around	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 14**	**[**sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(54 sc)**

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

☐ **Rnd 15**	Sc in each st around	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 16**	**[**sc in next 3 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts**] 6 times**	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 17**	Sc in each st around	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts**] 6 times**	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	**[**sc in next 5 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts**] 6 times**	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 21**	**[**sc2tog, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**	**(24 sc)**

Stuff firmly now, and keep adding stuffing until the last round.

☐ **Rnd 22**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 23**	**[**sc in next st, sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 24**	**[**sc2tog**] 6 times**	**(6 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving an 8 in (20 cm) tail. Thread the tail through the front loop of each of the last 6 stitches, pull it tight to close the hole and bury the end inside. Press the stuffed rock into an oval with a flat base (rounds 1 to 10), about 4½ in (11.5 cm) from side to side and 3 3/8 in (8.6 cm) from front to back. The center line lies in the middle of the long front.	

Brain coral

Yarn B, coral.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	8 sc in MR	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	2 sc in each st around	**(32 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	2 sc in each st around	**(64 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	2 sc in each st around	**(128 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off and weave in the end. Do not stuff and do not press it: it ruffles by itself from round to round.	

Lettuce coral

Yarn C, teal.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	8 sc in MR	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 9 times**	**(27 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 13 times**, sc in next st	**(40 sc)**

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 20 times**	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 30 times**	**(90 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next st, 2 sc in next st**] 45 times**	**(135 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off and weave in the end. Do not stuff and do not press it: it ruffles by itself from round to round.	

Plate coral

Yarn E, violet.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	9 sc in MR	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 3 times**	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 4 times**	**(16 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 5 times**, sc in next st	**(21 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 7 times**	**(28 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 9 times**, sc in next st	**(37 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 12 times**, sc in next st	**(49 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	**[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 16 times**, sc in next st	**(65 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off and weave in the end. Do not stuff and do not press it: it ruffles by itself from round to round.	

Branch coral stem

Yarn D, marigold.

Round 1 is the top. Stuff firmly every few rounds as you go.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	**[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 2 times**, 2 sc in next st	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts	**(9 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 16**	Sc in each st around	**(9 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 16: tick them off as you go.

☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐ 16

☐ **Rnd 17**	2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 4 sts	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 18**	Sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(13 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 14 in (36 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff firmly up to the open edge.	

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

Branch coral arm: make 3

Yarn D, marigold.

Round 1 is the tip.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in next st, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st	**(7 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sc in next 3 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts	**(8 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 10**	Sc in each st around	**(8 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 10: tick them off as you go.

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 12 in (30 cm) tail for sewing. Stuff lightly up to the open edge.	

Tall sponge

Yarn F, seafoam.

☐ **Foundation**	With F, ch 18; being careful not to twist the chain, sl st in the first ch to form a ring. Round 1 begins in that same ch.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Sc in each ch around	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 12**	Sc in each st around	**(15 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 12: tick them off as you go.

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

☐ **Rnd 13**	Sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts	**(16 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. This sponge is open at the top: the chain edge is its rim. Close the small gap in the chain with the tail from the start. Do not stuff.	

Middle sponge

Yarn F, seafoam.

☐ **Foundation**	With F, ch 18; being careful not to twist the chain, sl st in the first ch to form a ring. Round 1 begins in that same ch.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Sc in each ch around	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 9**	Sc in each st around	**(15 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 9: tick them off as you go.

4 5 6 7 8 9

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

☐ **Rnd 10**	Sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts	**(16 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. This sponge is open at the top: the chain edge is its rim. Close the small gap in the chain with the tail from the start. Do not stuff.	

Short sponge

Yarn F, seafoam.

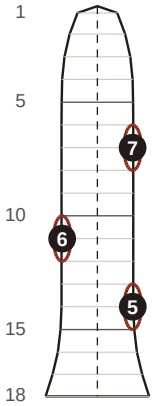
☐ **Foundation**	With F, ch 18; being careful not to twist the chain, sl st in the first ch to form a ring. Round 1 begins in that same ch.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Sc in each ch around	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Sc in each st around	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	**[**sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog**] 3 times**	**(15 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 4 to 7**	Sc in each st around	**(15 sc)**

A box for each round, 4 to 7: tick them off as you go.

☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7

☐ **Rnd 8**	Sc in next 7 sts, 2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts	**(16 sc)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 16 in (41 cm) tail for sewing. This sponge is open at the top: the chain edge is its rim. Close the small gap in the chain with the tail from the start. Do not stuff.	

Assembly



Branch coral stem: 5 branch coral arm, 6 branch coral arm, 7 branch coral arm

A number is the step below that puts it on; a letter is put on under Finishing. Each line is a round, counted as the rounds are worked. The upright broken line is the center line. A place with a broken edge is on the far side.

1. Set the brain coral on the rock, right side up, the middle of its round 1 on round 17 of the rock, 7 stitches to the right of the center line. With a new length of B, sew it down all the way round through its round 2, so that the rest of the ruffle stands free. Pull the folds up and out with your fingers.

2. Set the lettuce coral on the rock, right side up, the middle of its round 1 on round 17 of the rock, 9 stitches to the left of the center line. With a new length of C, sew it down all the way round through its round 2, so that the rest of the ruffle stands free. Pull the folds up and out with your fingers.

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.

3. Set the plate coral on the rock, right side up, the middle of its round 1 on round 16 of the rock, 1 stitch to the left of the center line. With a new length of E, sew it down all the way round through its round 2, so that the rest of the ruffle stands free. Pull the folds up and out with your fingers.

4. Pin the branch coral stem to the rock: the middle of the open edge lies on round 20, 11 stitches to the left of the center line. The edge (13 sts) covers about rounds 18 to 22 of the rock. It points up. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

5. Pin one branch coral arm to the branch coral stem: the middle of the open edge lies on round 14, 2 stitches to the right of the center line. The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 13 to 15 of the branch coral stem. It points to the right, then curves until its tip points up. Bend it as you pin it and hold the curve with a few running stitches along its inner side, drawn up a little. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

6. Pin one branch coral arm to the branch coral stem: the middle of the open edge lies on round 11, 2 stitches to the left of the center line. The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 10 to 12 of the branch coral stem. It points to the left, then curves until its tip points up. Bend it as you pin it and hold the curve with a few running stitches along its inner side, drawn up a little. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

7. Pin one branch coral arm to the branch coral stem: the middle of the open edge lies on round 7, 2 stitches to the right of the center line. The edge (8 sts) covers about rounds 6 to 8 of the branch coral stem. It points to the right, then curves until its tip points up. Bend it as you pin it and hold the curve with a few running stitches along its inner side, drawn up a little. Sew all the way round with the tail, adding a little stuffing before the last few stitches if the edge is still soft.

8. Pin the tall sponge to the rock: the middle of the open edge lies on round 20, 11 stitches to the right of the center line. The edge (16 sts) covers about rounds 18 to 22 of the rock. It points up. Sew all the way round with the tail.

9. Pin the middle sponge to the rock: the middle of the open edge lies on round 17, 12 stitches to the right of the center line. The edge (16 sts) covers about rounds 15 to 19 of the rock. It points out to the side and up. Sew all the way round with the tail.

10. Pin the short sponge to the rock: the middle of the open edge lies on round 22, on the center line. The edge (16 sts) covers about rounds 20 to 24 of the rock. It points up. Sew all the way round with the tail.

Finishing

- Weave every tail through the piece and trim it. Open the folds of the ruffles with your fingers.

In all: 11 pieces; 2,634 stitches.

Found a mistake in this pattern? Tell us at flossfield.com, under Make a request.

For your own crochet, gifts and handmade pieces you sell. Do not resell or share this PDF or copies of it.