



# Orange Cup Coral

*Balanophyllia bonaespei*

This small, bright orange coral forms solitary cups. It lives on shaded reef walls.

**Fun fact:** It can survive in darker places than most corals as it does not rely on sunlight for photosynthesis.

## Cup coral

### Base:

Make the tube/column first. Start at the bottom of the tube and work up.

ch 8, ss in first ch to form ring.

ch 1, working in a spiral (don't join, just keep stitching around and around), work 1sc in each stitch until desired height of tube is reached.

When you've reached the height you want, stop, leaving a loop.

### Tentacles:

ss in next sc, pull a loop of yarn up very high, the height of your hook or even higher.

Hold tight where your last stitch is with your left thumb and forefinger.

Twist the yarn to the point where it folds back on itself and that will make the tentacles. Take your hook with the long loop of yarn on it and make large, forward, circles with your hand moving the hook end while holding steady the base end of that loop, like your right hand is actually working a bicycle pedal.

Repeat this movement 15–25 times. You'll see the yarn start to twist and as you keep circling, it will start to twist back on itself making the tentacle. Once loop is twisted, ss back in same stitch (one tentacle made), repeat in same stitch (you want two tentacles per sc). sc in next stitch, make two tentacles in same stitch repeat around how long your original loop is, combined with how many rotation/twists you make determines the size of your tentacle. Higher loops make longer fringe, lots of twists make a tighter fringe.

F/O and weave ends.