

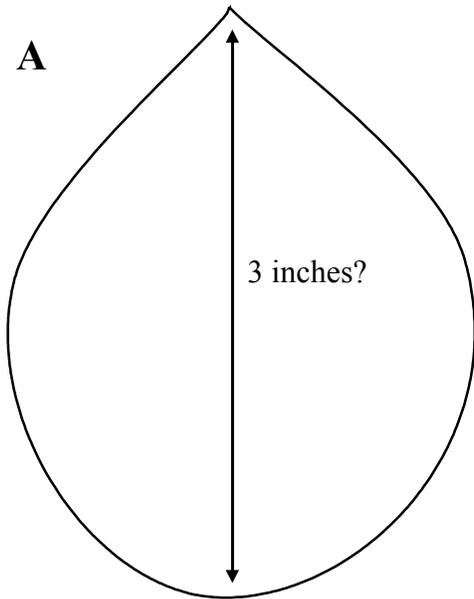
Crocheted Magnolia

Leaves Tutorial



Crocheting Leaves

No matter how many crocheted leaf patterns I have tried, none have been completely satisfactory, I have come up with a concept that works for me.

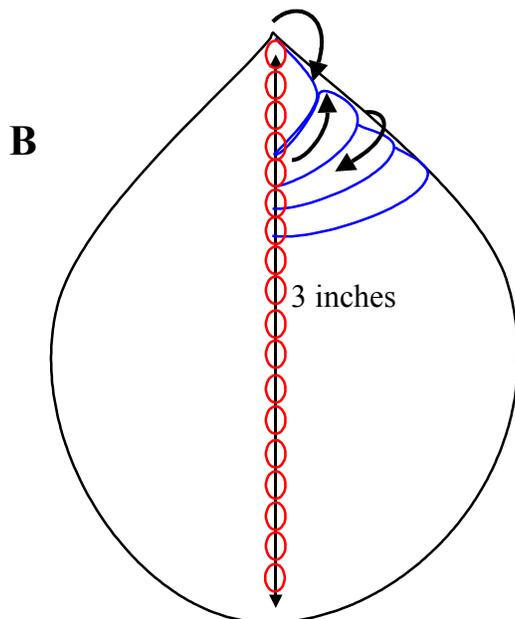


It starts with a **drawing**. What kind of shape, or size I do want? How large? How long is the center of the leaf, top to base? With those questions answered I am on my way. A

What I am going to share with you is a concept, NOT a pattern, as each leaf should be a little different-like nature.

In illust. B, and C, you will see that I work one side of the leaf at a time., Attaching it to a center sc over wire base. Before I start, I peel off enough thread to do the second side. This process allows me to start at the top, and work down, just as I do for the first half, both sides ending at the bottom.

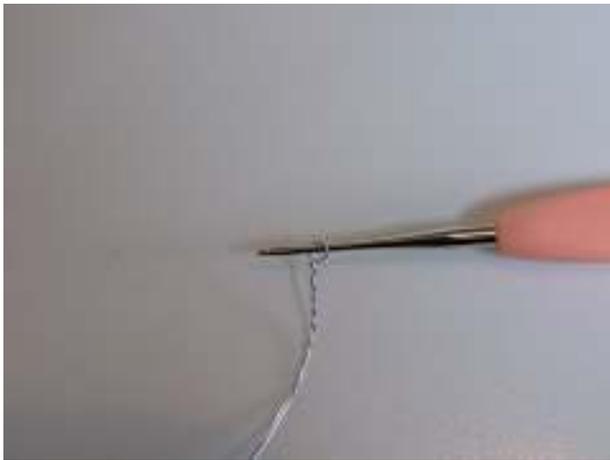
Starting at the top, I use sc, hdc, and dc, to shape each section of the leaf to fit the shape I have drawn. I increase in the center of each section to make it curve. Each section is attached to the center section with slip stitches, working toward the bottom with each completed section. This method ensures that you will have veins in your leaves, just like the real one.





After peeling off about 5 arm lengths of thread, I wrap it around my left hand then fold it in a figure 8 and secure it with a bit of wire. Beginning about 12 inches from the wrapped thread, I make a slip knot, and chain the length of my desired leaf drawing, plus about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, using the thread from the ball (*the peeled off thread will be used to start the second part of the leaf*). In the case of the magnolia leaves, I chained 40, with #20 thread and 1.25 hook.

Once my chain is made, I lay aside my work, and cut a piece of floral wire 4 times the length of the chain, and fold it in half.



As you can see in the photo to the left, once the wire is folded I insert my hook about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in, and holding it firm, twist the wire with my hook to form a secure loop, which will be the top of my leaf.

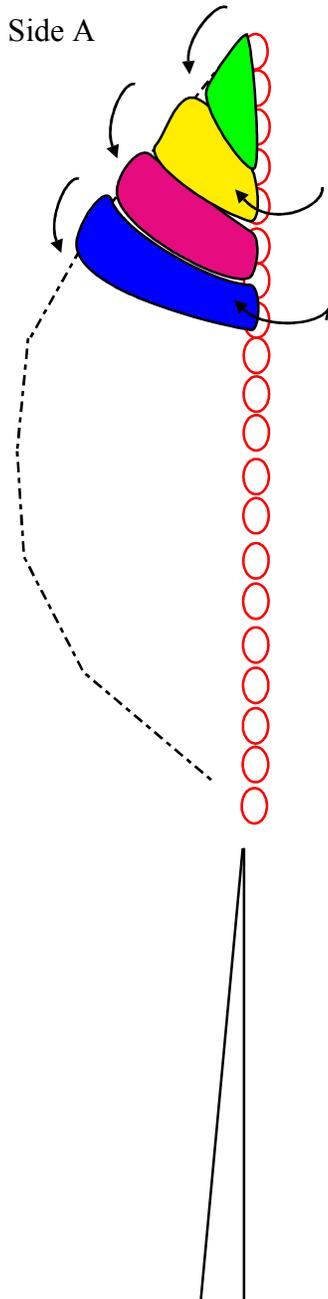


You can see the results here.

Starting about half way up the folded wire, lay the wire over the thread and chain one. Next begin sc over wire, using the stitches in your chain as a base. When you get close to the top, slide the stitches up so that the last st is even with the loop you made. Work 5 stitch in that loop.

Turn your work and begin the first side of the leaf, working down the sc base as follows: sc, hdc, dc, 2 dc in one(Inc), dc, hdc, sc, slip st in next st. Slip st in next st , ch 1, turn.

The basic Concept



The basic concept here is to begin at the top and create wedges that mimic the structure and veins in the leaves you are trying to mimic. I always use a sc, hdc, and dc to create the rise. If you are adding to the width, work two sts inc in the center bottom of your wedge, then hdc, sc, as needed to reduce shape then slip st into the base sc on wire.

It takes a little practice to get what you want but soon you will be able to shape any kind of leaf you want.

* When I turn and start a new wedge from the base, I pick up a loop thru the slipped st to the left and then one in the valley of the previous wedge. Yarn over, and pull thru all loops on hook. This move fills in the gap and the base.

Once done, the next st is a hdc, then dc along, placing 2 st inc at about the middle of the wedge. If you need to make wider work to last dc in previous row, dc in next st, but leave last two loops on hook, yarn over, insert hook in last post of dc in previous row. Draw loop thru 2, then yarn over and draw thru remaining loops. This smooth's out the outside edge. Chain 3, turn. If still need to make wider, dc in first space. If you are getting ready to draw you stitches in, dc in second space for the return.

** Always think of the veins in the leaf. That is the shape you want.

When you reach the bottom of the leave, slip st shaping to base. Cut thread and work in ends.

Next, undo the threads you peeled off in the beginning. Using this thread, starting at the top, work tip as desired, then proceed down the other side, matching the shaping of side A.