

✦ Gothic Skull Shawl Crochet Tutorial (Ultra-Detailed – US Terms)

This is a **complete, step-by-step crochet guide** based on the diagram you provided. It's written in **US crochet terms**, beginner-friendly but detailed enough for intermediate crocheters who want precision.





Materials You'll Need

- Worsted weight yarn (black recommended for gothic effect)
- Crochet hook: Size H/8 (5.0 mm) or appropriate for your yarn
- Stitch markers
- Yarn needle
- Scissors



Stitch Abbreviations (US Terms)

- ch = chain
- sc = single crochet
- dc = double crochet
- hdc = half double crochet
- tr = treble crochet
- sl st = slip stitch
- dc2tog = double crochet 2 together
- sp = space
- st = stitch



SECTION 1: Core Skull Motif (Rounds 1–10)

This forms the **main skull face** (eyes, nose, cheekbones, and teeth).



Round 1: Magic Ring Foundation

- Make a **magic ring**
- Ch 3 (counts as first dc)
- Work 11 dc into ring
- Join with sl st to top of ch-3
👉 (12 stitches total)



Round 2: Increase Round

- Ch 3
- 2 dc in each stitch around
- Join with sl st
👉 (24 stitches)

Round 3: Begin Eye Socket Placement

- Ch 3
- *1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st* repeat around
- Join
 - 👉 (36 stitches)

Mark two opposite sections for **eye sockets**

Round 4: Shape Eye Sockets

- Work dc across until first marker
- Create **chain loop (ch 5–7)** to skip eye socket space
- Continue dc on the other side
- Repeat for second eye

👉 You now have two circular gaps

Round 5: Reinforce Eye Edges

- Work dc around entire piece
- When reaching chain loops:
 - Work multiple dc into loop (8–10 dc)

This builds **round eye sockets**

Round 6: Cheekbone Clusters

- Use **cluster stitches (3 dc puff stitch)** under each eye:
 - Yarn over, insert hook, pull up loop (repeat 3 times)
 - Pull through all loops

Place clusters under each eye socket for structure

Round 7: Nose Formation

- At center between eyes:
 - Skip stitches to form triangle gap
 - Use ch stitches to outline nose

Work dc around rest

Round 8: Teeth Base

- Switch to smaller stitches:
 - Use sc and hdc across lower section
- Create vertical spacing using:
 - ch 1, skip st pattern

This defines **individual teeth slots**

Round 9: Teeth Detail

- Work sc into each tooth space
- Add vertical definition:
 - Alternate sc + ch 1

Round 10: Skull Edge Expansion

- Work dc evenly around
- Add increases at corners to flatten circle

✓ Skull base is now complete!

SECTION 2: Eye Sockets & Jaw Base

Reinforcing Eye Sockets

- Join yarn at eye edge
- Work **sc evenly around each socket**
- Optional:
 - Add second round using hdc for thickness

Building the Jaw

- Attach yarn at lower skull edge
- Ch foundation outward (about 20–30 stitches)

Work rows:

Row 1:

- sc across

Row 2:

- hdc across

Row 3:

- dc across

Gradually widen using increases at ends

Adding Jaw Teeth

- Along top edge of jaw:
 - *sc, ch 1, skip 1 st* repeat
- Next row:
 - Work sc into each space

This creates **tooth texture**

Joining Jaw to Skull

- Use **sl st joins** or sc joins
- Attach jaw evenly beneath skull

SECTION 3: Spiderweb Mesh Shawl

This builds the **triangular shawl body**

Panel Layout

You will create **multiple spiderweb panels (approx. 12)** arranged in rows.

Spiderweb Panel Pattern

Round 1:

- Magic ring
- Ch 3 + 11 dc
- Join

Round 2:

- Ch 5 (counts as tr + ch 1)
- Skip 1 st, tr, ch 1 repeat

Creates open mesh

Round 3:

- Expand mesh:
 - tr, ch 2 in each space

Round 4:

- Create hexagon shape:
 - Add corners: (*tr, ch 3, tr*) in same space

Panel Assembly

- Arrange panels into triangle
- Join using:
 - slip stitch (hidden seam)
 - or sc join (visible seam)

Join **3 points per panel**

Invisible Join Method

- Insert hook through both pieces
- Yarn over, pull through both loops
- Continue across

Seaming Stitch Option

- Use sc through both edges for stronger join

Outer Mesh Expansion

Once panels are joined:

- Work rows across entire shawl:
 - dc, ch 2, skip 2 stitches

Repeat to expand size

SECTION 4: Border & Finishing

Scalloped Edge (Final Border)

Work along edges:

- *5 dc in one stitch, skip 2 stitches, sc in next*
- Repeat around

Creates gothic lace effect

Corner Spacing

At corners:

- (ch 3, dc, ch 3) in same stitch

Finishing Steps

- Fasten off yarn
- Weave in all ends
- Block shawl for shape:
 - Stretch evenly and pin
 - Lightly steam or wet block

Optional Enhancements

- Add beads to spiderweb intersections
- Use gradient yarn for dramatic shading
- Reinforce skull edges with tighter stitches

Final Result

You now have a **Gothic Skull Spiderweb Shawl** featuring:

- Detailed skull centerpiece 
- Structured jaw and teeth
- Symmetrical eye sockets
- Spiderweb lace panels 
- Elegant scalloped border