

FREE CROCHET PATTERN

Easy Beginner Crochet Hat

A stretchy ribbed beanie made from one simple rectangle of half double crochet, seamed and gathered at the top. The easiest way to crochet your first hat, with a bobble hat option.



<div>SKILL LEVEL</div> <div>Beginner</div>	<div>FINISHED SIZE</div> <div>Child: about 16.75 in (42.5 cm) around · Adult M: 19 in (48.5 cm) · Adult L: 20.75 in (53 cm), unstretched. About 7 (8, 8.5) in / 18 (20, 21.5) cm tall.</div>	<div>YARN WEIGHT</div> <div>Medium / Worsted</div>
<div>HOOK</div> <div>5.5 mm (US I-9)</div>	<div>TIME</div> <div>About 3–4 hours</div>	<div>TERMS</div> <div>US terms</div>

Gauge: 13 hdc and 10 rows = 4 in (10 cm), worked in rows in back loops only. Check your gauge — the number of rows sets how big the hat is around.

Materials

- ☐ Worsted- or aran-weight yarn — About 100 (125, 145) yd / 91 (114, 133) m (Estimated. Allow about 25 yd (23 m) more for a pom-pom.)
- ☐ 5.5 mm (US I-9) crochet hook (Or the size that gives you the gauge)
- ☐ Pom-pom maker or a piece of stiff cardboard (Optional, for the bobble hat)
- ☐ Tapestry needle, scissors and a tape measure

Abbreviations

ch — chain

sc — single crochet

BLO — back loop only

rep — repeat

hdc — half double crochet

sl st — slip stitch

st(s) — stitch(es)

() — stitch count at the end of a round or row, or a group worked into one stitch

Notes before you start

- Sizes are written as Child (Adult M, Adult L). Follow the numbers for your size throughout.
- The ch 2 at the start of each row does not count as a stitch.
- From Row 2 onward, work every stitch in the back loop only (BLO). This makes the ribs and the stretch.
- The rows run up the hat: the number of rows sets the size around the head, and the foundation chain sets the height.
- Written in US crochet terms. In UK terms, hdc is half treble (htr).

The pattern

Foundation chain

- ☐ **Start:** Make a slip knot, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail, and ch 28 (31, 33).

Hat rectangle

- ☐ **Row 1:** Hdc in the 3rd ch from the hook and in each ch across. Turn. **(26 (29, 31))**
- ☐ **Row 2:** Ch 2 (does not count as a st). Working in back loops only, hdc in the first st and in each st across. Turn. **(26 (29, 31))**
- ☐ **Rows 3–42 (3–48, 3–52):** Rep Row 2 until you have 42 (48, 52) rows in total. Lying flat and unstretched, the piece measures about 16.75 (19, 20.75) in / 42.5 (48.5, 53) cm across the rows. **(26 (29, 31))**

Tip: Before you fasten off, wrap the rectangle around the head where the hat will sit. It should feel snug, with the two short edges just meeting. Add or remove rows until it fits.

- ☐ **Finish:** Fasten off, leaving a 2 yd (1.8 m) tail for sewing.

Assembly

- ☐ **Sew the seam:** Fold the rectangle in half so the first row and the last row line up. Thread the long tail onto a tapestry needle and whipstitch the two edges together through both layers, from one end to the other. Do not cut the yarn — the needle is now at one open edge of the tube.
- ☐ **Gather the top:** With the same tail, sew a loose running stitch all the way around that open edge, going in and out through the ends of the rows. Pull the tail firmly to gather the edge closed, then sew a second round of running stitches and pull tight again.
- ☐ **Secure:** Knot the tail securely, push the needle through to the inside and weave the end through several stitches before trimming. Turn the hat so the seam is on the inside.

Tip: If a small hole is left at the top, close it with a few extra stitches across the center before you knot the tail.

Finishing

- ☐ **Bobble hat (optional):** Make a pompom about 3 in (7.5 cm) across with a pompom maker or cardboard. Thread its tie ends through the center of the gathered top, knot them securely on the inside and weave them in.
- ☐ **Ends:** Weave the starting tail into the seam and trim any remaining ends.

Tips

- Count your stitches every few rows — you should always have 26 (29, 31). If rows get shorter or longer, check the first and last stitch of each row.
- The first hdc of each row goes into the very first stitch, right beside the turning chain.
- If the hat feels loose, remove a few rows before seaming or try a 5 mm hook.
- For babies and children under 3, skip the pompom and any other small attachments.

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