Crochet Balaclava: Earflap Pattern

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Finished Size and Skill Level

One adult size: fits head circumference 21-23 in (53-58 cm).

Finished length from crown to neck edge: about 13.5 in (34 cm).

Skill level: Easy. You should know how to increase in the round.

Materials

Worsted weight yarn (#4): about 300 yards (275 m). Choose a soft, non-scratchy yarn since the fabric sits against your face.

5.5 mm crochet hook, or size needed to obtain gauge.

Stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors.

Gauge

12 half double crochet and 10 rows = 4 in (10 cm) using a 5.5 mm hook. Take time to check your gauge so the balaclava fits snugly.

Abbreviations (US Terms)

ch = chain, hdc = half double crochet (UK: half treble crochet), sc = single crochet (UK: double crochet), BLO = back loop only, sl st = slip stitch, st(s) = stitch(es), rep = repeat

Pattern Notes

The balaclava is worked from the crown down in joined rounds. Place a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round to keep your place.

Crown

Round 1: Make a magic ring, ch 1, work 8 hdc into the ring, join with a sl st to the first hdc. Pull the ring closed. (8 sts)

Round 2: Ch 1, 2 hdc in each st around, join. (16 sts)

Round 3: Ch 1, *hdc in next st, 2 hdc in next st; rep from * around, join. (24 sts)

Round 4: Ch 1, *hdc in next 2 sts, 2 hdc in next st; rep from * around, join. (32 sts)

Round 5: Ch 1, *hdc in next 3 sts, 2 hdc in next st; rep from * around, join. (40 sts)

Round 6: Ch 1, *hdc in next 4 sts, 2 hdc in next st; rep from * around, join. (48 sts)

Round 7: Ch 1, *hdc in next 5 sts, 2 hdc in next st; rep from * around, join. (56 sts)

Round 8: Ch 1, *hdc in next 6 sts, 2 hdc in next st; rep from * around, join. (64 sts = about 21.5 in around)

Sides

Rounds 9-19: Ch 1, hdc in each st around, join. (64 sts)

The piece now measures about 8 in from the crown.

Face Opening

Round 20: Ch 1, hdc in next 20 sts, ch 24, skip the next 24 sts, hdc in the remaining 20 sts, join. (64 sts; the opening is about 8 in wide)

Rounds 21-24: Ch 1, hdc in each st around (working into the chain as well), join. (64 sts)

Neck

Rounds 25-32: Ch 1, hdc BLO in each st around, join. (64 sts)

Round 33: Ch 1, sc in each st around, join. Fasten off. (64 sts)

Face Edging

Join yarn at the face opening.

Round 1: Ch 1, work sc evenly around the opening: 1 sc in each st across the top and bottom edges and 2 sc in the end of each round along both sides. Join with a sl st to the first sc.

Round 2: Ch 1, sc BLO in each st around, join. Fasten off.

Finishing

Weave in all ends. The face opening should fit snugly; the ribbed edging will relax slightly with wear.

Make This Version

Work the full base pattern exactly as written, Rounds 1-33 and the Face Edging. Then add two earflaps to the neck edge.

Divide the 64-st neck edge into 4 equal parts of 16 sts: 64 divided by 4 = 16. The two flaps sit on opposite parts, with their centers 32 sts apart, so one flap sits over each ear. Try the balaclava on and mark the two 16-st sections that sit over your ears before you start.

Work each earflap in rows, turning at the end of each row, over its 16 sts. Join yarn at the first marked st, ch 1, sc in each of the 16 sts, turn.

Row 2: Ch 1, sc2tog, sc in next 12 sts, sc2tog, turn. (14 sts)

Row 3: Ch 1, sc2tog, sc in next 10 sts, sc2tog, turn. (12 sts)

Row 4: Ch 1, sc2tog, sc in next 8 sts, sc2tog, turn. (10 sts)

Row 5: Ch 1, sc2tog, sc in next 6 sts, sc2tog, turn. (8 sts)

Row 6: Ch 1, sc2tog, sc in next 4 sts, sc2tog, turn. (6 sts)

Row 7: Ch 1, sc2tog, sc in next 2 sts, sc2tog, turn. (4 sts)

Row 8: Ch 1, sc2tog twice, turn. (2 sts) Fasten off.

Check: each row decreases by 2 sts: 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, 4, 2. Work the second flap the same way over the other marked 16 sts.

Finish each flap with a round of sc evenly around its edge. You need about 25 extra yards of yarn for the two flaps.

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