Crochet Balaclava: Chunky Pattern

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

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 base pattern exactly as written, with the same stitch counts in every round: crown to 64 sts, sides 64 sts, face opening 20 hdc, ch 24, skip 24, 20 hdc, neck 64 sts.

Change the yarn and hook only. Use bulky weight yarn (#5) instead of worsted weight yarn (#4), and a 6.5 mm hook instead of a 5.5 mm hook.

Finished size is an estimate only, because it depends on your bulky yarn gauge. At a bulky gauge of about 11 hdc = 4 in (2.75 sts per inch), 64 sts measure 64 divided by 2.75 = about 23 in around, at the top of the adult 21-23 in range.

For the hooded look shown in the featured photo, work the neck longer as in the Hooded Long Neck idea (idea 4): work Rounds 25-40 in hdc BLO instead of Rounds 25-32, then work Round 41 in sc instead of Round 33. The extra length depends on your bulky row gauge, so measure as

you go.

Swatch first and measure your own gauge. Finished circumference = 64 divided by your sts per inch. If your gauge is looser than 2.75 sts per inch and the piece measures over 23 in, stop the crown after Round 7 at 56 sts instead of working Round 8, and work the rest of the pattern with 56 sts. If you stop at 56 sts, work the face opening as hdc 18, ch 20, skip 20, hdc 18. Check: 18 + 20 + 18 = 56 sts.

You need about 275 to 300 yards of bulky yarn. This is an estimate only.

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