Crochet Balaclava: Granny Square 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 14 in (36 cm).

Skill level: Easy. You should know granny stitch and how to join squares.

Materials

Worsted weight yarn (#4): about 300 yards (275 m) in total across soft pastel colors, about 30 yards per square. This is an estimate.

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.

Each granny square measures 4 in (10 cm) across after Round 4. Check the square size, not only the hdc gauge, because granny stitch is worked in double crochet clusters and the hdc gauge does not set the square size by itself.

Abbreviations (US Terms)

ch = chain, dc = double crochet (UK: treble crochet), 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 crown and sides of this version are built from granny squares instead of the base crown-down rounds. The face opening and neck are then worked per the base pattern at 64 sts, so the fit around the face and neck matches the base pattern.

Place a stitch marker in the first stitch of each round to keep your place.

Granny Squares (make 10)

Work each square in one soft pastel color. Use assorted pastels for the patchwork look in the featured photo.

Round 1: Make a magic ring, ch 3 (counts as dc), work 2 dc into the ring, ch 2, (3 dc into the ring, ch 2) 3 times, join with a sl st to the top of the ch 3. (12 dc and 4 ch-2 corner spaces)

Round 2: Sl st to the next ch-2 space, ch 3 (counts as dc), work (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the same space, work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in each of the next 3 ch-2 spaces, join with a sl st to the top of the ch 3. (24 dc and 4 ch-2 corner spaces)

Round 3: Sl st to the next ch-2 space, ch 3, work (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the same space, *work 3 dc in the next space between groups, work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the next corner space; rep from * around, join with a sl st to the top of the ch 3. (36 dc and 4 ch-2 corner spaces)

Round 4: Sl st to the next ch-2 space, ch 3, work (2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the same space, *work 3 dc in each of the next 2 spaces between groups, work (3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc) in the next corner space; rep from * around, join with a sl st to the top of the ch 3. (48 dc and 4 ch-2 corner spaces)

Check the square size: each side of the finished square has 3 dc + 3 dc + 3 dc + 3 dc = 12 dc, and the square measures 4 in across. If your square does not measure 4 in across, change your hook size until it does. Do not add another round, because the sizing round below is written for a 4-round square with 12 dc on each side.

Joining the Squares

Join the squares into 2 rows of 5 squares. Join with a whip stitch or a sl st seam through the back loops only, matching stitch for stitch.

Then join the two ends of the rows together to form a tube 5 squares around and 2 squares tall. The tube measures 5 x 4 = 20 in around and 2 x 4 = 8 in tall.

Close the crown by folding the top edge of the tube flat so the two halves meet, and seam across the top edge with a whip stitch. The seam is about 10 in long, half of the 20 in top edge.

Sizing Round

Join yarn at the lower edge of the tube.

Work 1 hdc in each dc across the bottom edge of each square. Work 12 hdc across each square and do not work into the corner chain spaces at the joins. That gives 5 x 12 = 60 positions.

Work the increases in the same round: Ch 1, *hdc in next 14 sts, 2 hdc in next st; rep from * around, join. (64 sts)

Check: each repeat uses 14 + 1 = 15 positions and makes 14 + 2 = 16 sts. 4 repeats use 4 x 15 = 60 positions and make 4 x 16 = 64 sts.

Face Opening

Mark the center front: try the tube on and mark the center of the front. Count back 32 sts from the marker and join yarn there, so the opening is centered on the marker.

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)

Check: the opening runs from st 21 to st 44 of the round, so its center falls between sts 32 and 33, on the marker to within half a stitch.

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.

About the Math

The square math does not divide cleanly into the base measurements, and this pattern does not pretend that it does. A 4 in square into a 21.5 in circumference gives 21.5 divided by 4 = 5.375 squares, which is not a whole number. Five squares around give 20 in, which is 1.5 in short of the base 21.5 in, and six squares would give 24 in, which is too loose. This version uses 5 squares around (20 in) and 2 squares tall (8 in, which matches the base crown and sides length of about 8 in), then brings the lower edge to the base 64 sts with the sizing round, so the face opening and neck match the base pattern exactly at 64 sts. The finished length is about 14 in: 8 in of squares plus about 0.4 in for the sizing round plus about 5.6 in for the face opening and neck rounds (14 rounds at 10 rows = 4 in). The ribbed neck and face edging stretch to fit a 21 to 23 in head.

CrochetRooms - for personal use. Do not copy, redistribute, or sell this pattern as your own.