CROCHET BOLERO: A BEAUTIFUL ROMANTIC BOLERO IN 5 SIZES

CrochetRooms free printable pattern

Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

Size | Fits bust | Length (shoulder to hem)

S | 34 in (86.5 cm) | 18 in (45.5 cm)

M | 38 in (96.5 cm) | 18.5 in (47 cm)

L | 42 in (106.5 cm) | 20 in (51 cm)

1X | 46 in (117 cm) | 20.5 in (52 cm)

2X | 50 in (127 cm) | 22 in (56 cm)

Sizes are approximate and will vary a little with your yarn and tension.

SKILL LEVEL

Easy. You need chains, single crochet, slip stitches, and basic seaming with a blunt needle. The stitches are simple; the garment skills are checking your gauge, dividing the work at the armholes, and sewing the shoulder seams. Note: the pattern PDF itself rates this Easy, while the Lion Brand website product page lists the same pattern as Level 3 Intermediate. This pattern follows the Easy rating given in the pattern text.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. It is a quick make in bulky yarn with a big hook: the whole bolero is single crochet, so allow a few relaxed evenings, a little longer the first time.

MATERIALS

- Bulky weight (#5) yarn, Lion Brand Chenille (Art. #531), 75% acrylic, 18% poly, 7% nylon, 110 yds / 100 m, 2.5 oz / 70 g per ball, color Garnet (531-201): 4 (5, 6, 7, 8) balls
- Total yarn, computed from the source's per-ball yardage: about 440 (550, 660, 770, 880) yards / 400 (500, 600, 700, 800) m
- N-13 (9 mm) crochet hook, or the size needed to obtain gauge
- Split ring stitch markers
- Large-eye blunt needle
- Scissors
- One button

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

beg: begin(ning). ch: chain. rep: repeat. RS: right side. sc: single crochet. sk: skip. sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es). WS: wrong side.

NOTES

The pattern is written for the smallest size, with the numbers for larger sizes in parentheses: S (M, L, 1X, 2X). Highlight all the numbers for your size before you begin. The bolero is worked in one piece beginning at the lower edge. The piece is divided at the underarm, and the fronts and back are worked separately. The back collar is worked directly onto the back neck edge, and the sides of the collar are sewn to the top edges of the fronts to complete the collar. Chain 1 at the beginning of a row does not count as a stitch. Gauge: 8 sc + 8 rows = 4 in (10 cm). Check your gauge before you start: if it takes you fewer stitches and rows to make a 4 in (10 cm) square, try a smaller hook; if more stitches and rows, try a larger hook.

BOLERO BODY

Work the body in one piece, beginning at the lower edge.

Ch 61 (69, 77, 85, 93).

Row 1 (RS): Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across. (60 (68, 76, 84, 92) sts)

Row 2: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across.

Row 3 (Increase Row): Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in first st, sc in each st to last st, 2 sc in last st. (62 (70, 78, 86, 94) sts)

Rows 4-7: Rep Rows 2 and 3 twice more. Row 4 is even, Row 5 is an increase row, Row 6 is even, Row 7 is an increase row. (66 (74, 82, 90, 98) sts at the end of Row 7)

Rows 8-10: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across.

Row 11 (Increase Row): Rep Row 3. (68 (76, 84, 92, 100) sts)

Row 12: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across.

Rep Row 12 until the piece measures 10 (10, 11, 11, 12) in (25.5 (25.5, 28, 28, 30.5) cm) from the beginning, ending with a WS row. Ending with a WS row means the last row you work is a WS row, and the next row you are ready to work is a RS row. Do not fasten off.

DIVIDING AT THE ARMHOLES

Right Front

Dividing Row (RS): Ch 1, sc in first 17 (19, 21, 23, 25) sts for the right front; leave the remaining sts unworked for the back and left front.

Row 1: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across. (17 (19, 21, 23, 25) sts)

Row 2 (Increase Row): Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in first st, sc in each st to last st, 2 sc in last st. (19 (21, 23, 25, 27) sts)

Rows 3-5: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across.

Row 6 (Increase Row): Ch 1, turn, sc in each st to last st, 2 sc in last st. (20 (22, 24, 26, 28) sts)

Rows 7-14: Rep Rows 3-6 twice more. Rows 7, 8, and 9 are even, Row 10 is an increase row, Rows 11, 12, and 13 are even, Row 14 is an increase row. (22 (24, 26, 28, 30) sts at the end of Row 14)

Row 15: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across.

Rep Row 15 until the armhole measures 8 (8.5, 9, 9.5, 10) in (20.5 (21.5, 23, 24, 25.5) cm). Fasten off.

Back

Dividing Row (RS): Join yarn with sc in the next unworked st of the Dividing Row following the right front, sc in the next 33 (37, 41, 45, 49) sts, leave the remaining sts unworked for the left front. (34 (38, 42, 46, 50) sts for the back)

Row 1: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across. (34 (38, 42, 46, 50) sts)

Row 2 (Increase Row): Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in first st, sc in each st to last st, 2 sc in last st. (36 (40, 44, 48, 52) sts)

Rows 3-5: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across.

Row 6 (Increase Row): Rep Row 2. (38 (42, 46, 50, 54) sts)

Rows 7-14: Rep Rows 3-6 twice more. Rows 7, 8, and 9 are even, Row 10 is an increase row, Rows 11, 12, and 13 are even, Row 14 is an increase row. (42 (46, 50, 54, 58) sts at the end of Row 14)

Row 15: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across.

Rep Row 15 until the back measures the same as the right front. Fasten off.

Left Front

Dividing Row (RS): Join yarn with sc in the next unworked st of the Dividing Row following the back, sc in each st to the end of the row. (17 (19, 21, 23, 25) sts)

Row 1 (Increase Row): Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in first st, sc in each st to last st, 2 sc in last st. (19 (21, 23, 25, 27) sts)

Rows 2-4: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across.

Row 5 (Increase Row): Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in first st, sc in each st across. (20 (22, 24, 26, 28) sts)

Rows 6-13: Rep Rows 3-6 twice more. In this front the four-row block is: even, even, increase, even, so the increase rows in the repeats are Row 8 and Row 12. (22 (24, 26, 28, 30) sts at the end of Row 13)

Row 14: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across. (22 (24, 26, 28, 30) sts)

Rep Row 14 until the left front measures the same as the back. Fasten off.

BACK COLLAR

Note: the RS of the bolero will be the WS of the collar when the collar is folded over.

Row 1 (RS): With the RS of the back facing, skip the first 12 (14, 16, 18, 20) sts of the last row of the back, join yarn with sc in the next st, sc in the next 17 sts; leave the remaining 12 (14, 16, 18, 20) sts unworked. (18 sts)

Row 2: Ch 1, turn, sc in first 4 sts, (2 sc in next sc, sc in next 4 sc) twice, 2 sc in next st, sc in last 3 sts. (21 sts)

Rows 3-5: Ch 1, turn, 2 sc in first st, sc in each st to last st, 2 sc in last st. (23 sts at the end of Row 3, 25 sts at the end of Row 4, 27 sts at the end of Row 5)

Row 6: Ch 1, turn, sc in each st across. (27 sts)

Fasten off.

SEAMING

Sew the shoulder seams, beginning at the shoulder edge and sewing for 12 (14, 16, 18, 20) sts; leave the remaining 10 sts of each front unsewn. Sew the side edges of the back collar to the top edges of the fronts.

ARMHOLE EDGING

Work the edging around each armhole in the same way.

Rnd 1: With RS facing, join yarn with sc at the armhole edge, work sc evenly spaced around the armhole, making sure to work an even number of sc; join with sl st in the first sc. The exact stitch count is not important; keep the stitches loose so the armhole does not get cinched in.

Rnd 2: *Ch 2, skip the next st, sl st in the next st; rep from * around; join with sl st in the first ch-2. Fasten off.

Repeat around the other armhole.

EDGING

Rnd 1: With RS facing, join yarn with sc in any st of the lower edge, work sc evenly spaced around the entire outside edge of the bolero, including the collar, making sure to work an even number of sc; join with sl st in the first sc. The exact stitch count is not important.

Rnd 2: *Ch 2, skip the next st, sl st in the next st; rep from * around; join with sl st in the first ch of the beginning ch. Fasten off.

BUTTON

Sew the button on the left front at the beginning of the collar. Use a ch-2 space of the right front edging for the buttonhole.

FINISHING

Weave in all ends with the blunt needle, hiding them inside the stitches so they do not show. Block lightly if needed: pin the bolero out to the finished measurements and let it dry fully.

CARE

The source pattern gives no care instructions. As a safe general rule for a chenille garment, hand wash cold and lay flat to dry. Do not bleach.

TIPS FOR A NEAT BOLERO

- Check your gauge first. Work a 4 in (10 cm) square in single crochet: it should take 8 sc and 8 rows. If it takes fewer stitches and rows, go down a hook size; if more, go up.
- Highlight your size. The pattern is written for S, with larger sizes in parentheses. Mark every number for your size before you start, so you do not follow the wrong column.
- Count after every increase row. The body grows by 2 stitches on Rows 3, 5, 7, and 11, and each front and the back grow on their own increase rows. A quick count after each increase row catches a mistake early.
- Keep the armhole edging loose. Work the single crochet evenly spaced and do not pull tight, or the armhole will cinch in.
- Match the fronts. The right front and left front are mirror images, so work them to the same armhole measurement before you seam.
- Sew the shoulder seams for the right number of stitches: 12 (14, 16, 18, 20), leaving 10 sts of each front unsewn for the collar opening.

VARIATIONS

- Solid color bolero: the sample is worked in one color, Garnet. A deep jewel tone like garnet looks rich in chenille; a soft cream or grey looks calm and classic.
- A longer bolero: work more plain rows before you divide at the armholes, so the body measures more than 10 (10, 11, 11, 12) in from the beginning. Keep the armhole depth the same.
- A different button: one large button closes the fronts at the collar. A wooden button suits a rustic look; a covered button suits a dressy look.
- A gift set: make two boleros in different colors. Each one is a quick bulky yarn project, so a pair is a comfortable project for a gift.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Lion Brand Yarn: Chenille Crochet Romantic Bolero, Pattern Number L20669, https://www.lionbrand.com/products/crochet-pattern-romantic-bolero-3

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