CROCHET CAP: BEAUTIFUL BASEBALL CAP IN 78 NEAT STITCHES

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Free printable pattern

FINISHED SIZE

One size, fits an adult head of about 22 to 23 in (56 to 58 cm). Finished crown circumference about 20.5 to 21 in (52 to 53 cm) before stretching, with useful negative ease. Crown depth about 6.5 to 7 in (16.5 to 18 cm) from the top center to the lower edge. Visor about 8 in (20 cm) wide across the final edge and about 3 in (7.5 cm) deep. Crown top about 6.5 to 6.75 in (16.5 to 17 cm) across after the increase rounds.

SKILL LEVEL

Comfortable beginner to intermediate. You need a magic ring, single crochet, increases, decreases, slip stitches, and crab stitch, plus basic finishing and light blocking. There are no panels to sew together.

TIME

The source pattern gives no exact time. It is a single compact cap in dense single crochet, so most crocheters finish it in a few relaxed evenings.

MATERIALS

- Smooth worsted weight (#4) cotton or cotton blend yarn, about 200 to 250 yards, in one solid muted denim blue. Choose a yarn with a reasonably firm twist rather than something very fuzzy or lofty.
- 4 mm crochet hook, or the size needed to obtain gauge
- Stitch marker
- Yarn needle
- Scissors

ABBREVIATIONS (US terms)

BLO: back loop only. ch: chain. crab stitch: reverse single crochet, worked to the right instead of the left. FLO: front loop only. inc: work 2 sc in the same stitch. RS: right side. sc: single crochet. sc2tog: single crochet 2 stitches together. sl st: slip stitch. st(s): stitch(es). WS: wrong side.

NOTES

This pattern is written in US crochet terms. The crown is worked with the right side facing in joined rounds. Do not turn between crown rounds. At the beginning of each single crochet round, ch 1. The beginning ch 1 does not count as a stitch. Join each round with a sl st to the first sc of that round. The joining slip stitch does not count as a stitch either. Place a marker in the first sc of each round if needed. Keep the joins aligned, because this creates an easy center back reference for positioning the visor later. The crown starts with 6 stitches and adds 6 evenly distributed stitches in every increase round. The visor is worked in turned rows. Ch 1 before each visor row; the ch 1 does not count as a stitch.

GAUGE

About 15 sc and 16 rows measure 4 in (10 cm) in firm single crochet using a 4 mm crochet hook. The stitch gauge is particularly important. At about 15 sc per 4 in, the 78 stitch crown measures about 20.8 in around before stretching. Aim for a compact fabric with clearly defined stitches and very small spaces between them.

CROCHET THE CROWN TOP

Make a magic ring.

R1: Ch 1, work 6 sc into the magic ring. Pull the ring firmly closed and join with a sl st to the first sc. Do not turn. (6 sts)

R2: Ch 1, inc in each st around. Join. (12 sts)

R3: Ch 1, [sc in next st, inc in next st] 6 times. Join. (18 sts)

R4: Ch 1, [sc in next 2 sts, inc in next st] 6 times. Join. (24 sts)

R5: Ch 1, [sc in next 3 sts, inc in next st] 6 times. Join. (30 sts)

R6: Ch 1, [sc in next 4 sts, inc in next st] 6 times. Join. (36 sts)

R7: Ch 1, [sc in next 5 sts, inc in next st] 6 times. Join. (42 sts)

R8: Ch 1, [sc in next 6 sts, inc in next st] 6 times. Join. (48 sts)

R9: Ch 1, [sc in next 7 sts, inc in next st] 6 times. Join. (54 sts)

R10: Ch 1, [sc in next 8 sts, inc in next st] 6 times. Join. (60 sts)

R11: Ch 1, [sc in next 9 sts, inc in next st] 6 times. Join. (66 sts)

R12: Ch 1, [sc in next 10 sts, inc in next st] 6 times. Join. (72 sts)

R13: Ch 1, [sc in next 11 sts, inc in next st] 6 times. Join. (78 sts)

Checkpoint: the crown top should now measure about 6.5 to 6.75 in across at the listed gauge. It should lie mostly flat with only a gentle tendency to curve downward at the outer edge.

FORM THE ROUNDED CROWN SIDES

Stop increasing after R13. The remaining crown rounds maintain 78 stitches, allowing the flat circle to transition smoothly into the rounded sides of the cap.

R14 to R27: Ch 1, sc in each st around. Join. (78 sts in each of these 14 rounds)

The crown should now have a smooth domed top and relatively straight lower sides. At the listed gauge, the top center to lower edge depth should fall close to 6.5 to 7 in.

For a shallower fit, stop 1 or 2 rounds earlier. For additional depth, add 1 or 2 more rounds of 78 sc before working the lower ridge.

CREATE THE RAISED LOWER RIDGE

The narrow braided looking line around the lower crown is made with a loose slip stitch round worked through the back loops of R27. This creates a distinct finishing line while leaving the front loops of R27 available for the visor.

R28: Do not ch. Sl st loosely in the BLO of each stitch from R27 around. Join with a sl st to the first slip stitch. (78 sl sts)

Fasten off.

Keep R28 loose enough that it lies smoothly around the crown. Tight slip stitches can pull the lower edge inward and make both the fit and the visor attachment too narrow.

CROCHET THE VISOR

Place the cap with the R1 to R28 joining line centered at the back. The center front is directly opposite this joining line.

On R27, count from the first stitch of the round. The visor attaches to stitches 26 through 53 inclusive. This uses 28 consecutive front loops and leaves 25 unused stitches between each side of the visor and the center back join.

With the RS facing, join yarn in the unused FLO of stitch 26.

Row 1, RS: Ch 1, sc in the unused FLO of stitch 26 and in the unused FLO of each stitch through stitch 53. Turn. (28 sts)

Row 2, WS: Ch 1, inc in first st, sc in next 26 sts, inc in last st. Turn. (30 sts)

Row 3, RS: Ch 1, sc in each st across. Turn. (30 sts)

Row 4, WS: Ch 1, inc in first st, sc in next 28 sts, inc in last st. Turn. (32 sts)

Row 5, RS: Ch 1, sc in each st across. Turn. (32 sts)

Row 6, WS: Ch 1, inc in first st, sc in next 30 sts, inc in last st. Turn. (34 sts)

Row 7, RS: Ch 1, sc in each st across. Turn. (34 sts)

Row 8, WS: Ch 1, sc in each st across. Turn. (34 sts)

Row 9, RS: Ch 1, sc in each st across. Turn. (34 sts)

Row 10, WS: Ch 1, sc2tog over first 2 sts, sc in next 30 sts, sc2tog over final 2 sts. Turn. (32 sts)

Row 11, RS: Ch 1, sc in each st across. Turn. (32 sts)

Row 12, WS: Ch 1, sc2tog over first 2 sts, sc in next 28 sts, sc2tog over final 2 sts. Turn. (30 sts)

Fasten off.

At the listed gauge, the visor begins about 7.5 in wide, broadens to about 9 in through the center rows, and settles to about 8 in across the final edge. Before adding the edging, the visor should

extend about 3 in from the crown. It should be symmetrical, gently wider through the middle, and softly rounded toward both front corners.

ADD THE VISOR EDGING

The finished visor has a distinct twisted outline around its free perimeter. Work this edge firmly enough to define the shape but not so tightly that the brim cups.

With the RS facing, join yarn at one base corner of the visor.

Work crab stitch around the three free sides only: 1 crab stitch in each of the 12 row ends along the first side, 1 crab stitch in each of the 30 stitches across Row 12, then 1 crab stitch in each of the 12 row ends along the opposite side. Do not work across the visor to crown attachment edge. (54 crab sts)

Fasten off securely.

FINISHING AND SHAPING

Weave all yarn tails into the inside of the crown and underside of the visor. Spread each tail through several stitches rather than burying several ends in one spot, which can create a visible lump in dense cotton crochet.

Light blocking helps the crown settle into its rounded shape and gives the visor the smooth curve expected from a baseball cap.

Lightly dampen the finished cap. Place the crown over a rounded bowl, hat form, or other smooth object close to the intended head size. Smooth the rounds downward from the center top toward the lower edge.

Shape the visor separately with your hands. Keep the center slightly lower while gently curving the two side sections downward. The brim should form one broad continuous curve rather than bending sharply at the center.

Pay particular attention to the first two visor rows while shaping. They should stay flat against the front of the crown so the visor appears to grow naturally from the hat rather than hanging from a narrow attachment line.

Allow the cap to dry completely in shape.

CARE

The source pattern gives no care instructions. Treat the cap gently: hand wash cold and lay flat to dry. Do not bleach. Reshape while damp.

TIPS FOR A NEAT CAP

- Keep the joins aligned. The joining line marks the center back, and the visor must sit directly opposite it at the center front.
- Keep R28 loose. Tight slip stitches pull the lower edge inward and make the visor attachment too narrow.

- Check your gauge before the crown grows. A gauge looser than 15 sc per 4 in makes a cap that is too big and floppy.
- Count the visor attachment span. It must occupy stitches 26 through 53 of the 78 stitch crown, leaving 25 stitches on each side toward the back.
- Make the visor increases at both ends of Rows 2, 4, and 6. The widest section should contain 34 stitches.
- Work the crab stitch edging with relaxed tension. If it is too tight, the visor curls and cups.
- If the visor feels too soft, work it with a hook about 0.5 mm smaller while keeping the same stitch counts, or use a firmer cotton rich yarn.

VARIATIONS

- Make it shallower: stop 1 or 2 crown rounds earlier, between R14 and R27, then work R28 and the visor as written.
- Make it deeper: add 1 or 2 more plain rounds of 78 sc between R14 and R27, then work R28 and the visor as written.
- Make it slightly smaller or larger: change the hook size by about 0.25 to 0.5 mm rather than adding or removing an increase round. Always keep the finished fabric dense enough that the crown holds its rounded silhouette.
- Change the color: work the cap in any one solid color. A solid color shows the dense single crochet texture and the raised ridge best.

Pattern adapted from the free pattern by Yarnmallow: How to Crochet a Baseball Cap Step by Step: Free DIY Crochet Pattern, https://yarnmallow.com/how-to-crochet-a-baseball-cap-step-by-step-free-diy-crochet-pattern/

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