Braided cowl

Women · US terms



Finished size
About 32 in (81 cm) around and 6¼ in (16 cm) wide, braided; each strip about 40 in (102 cm) long and 2 7/8 in (7.3 cm) wide

Skill
Easy
One stitch in the back loop, a braid and three short seams

Yarn
Super bulky (6), 3 colors

Hook
9 mm (US M/N-13)

Gauge
8 stitches and 7 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In ribbed half double crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: cream, main	**about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: camel, the camel strip	**about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: chestnut, the chestnut strip	**about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**

Hook: 9 mm (US M/N-13), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle with a large eye, scissors and a tape measure and 3 safety pins and a clip or a heavy book to hold the ends while you braid.

To find how many balls: divide by the length on your yarn's label and round up. Buy them from one dye lot. The estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge, with 15 percent added.

Sizes

Size	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Teen	29 in (74 cm) around, 6¼ in (16 cm) wide	about 180 yd (165 m)
Women (this file)	**32 in (81 cm) around, 6¼ in (16 cm) wide**	**about 195 yd (178 m)**

Abbreviations

Written in US terms. Where the UK name differs it is given beside the US one.

ch	chain stitch
hdc	half double crochet (UK htr, half treble)
BLO	back loop only: the loop of the top farther from you
RS	right side
st	stitch

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Gauge

8 stitches and 7 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in ribbed half double crochet.

Check it on the first strip, laid flat and not stretched, when its 5 rows are done: 20 stitches are about 10 in (25 cm) long, and the 5 rows are about 2 7/8 in (7.3 cm) wide. If they measure more, start again with a smaller hook; if they measure less, with a larger one.

Before you start

- The ch 1 at the start of a row does not count as a stitch.
- Row 1 is the right side.
- Each strip is worked the long way, 5 rows in one color. Working in the back loop leaves a ridge on every second row, on both sides: the rows become ribs that run along the strip.
- Make the foundation chain loose, or make it with a hook one size larger: it is one long edge of the strip and has to bend as the other one does.
- Leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) when you begin. The tail when you fasten off is longer, to sew with.
- When a ball runs out, join the next at the end of a row: work the last yarn over of the last stitch with the new yarn, and leave a tail of about 6 in (15 cm) on both.
- Whip stitch: with the yarn on a yarn needle, pass the needle through one edge and then through the other, always from the same side, and pull the yarn through. On row ends go under two strands at the very end of the row. Sew 2 or 3 times into the same place where you begin and where you end.

Instructions

Chosen: Women. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a row is done. In UK terms hdc is half treble.

Cream strip

Yarn A, cream.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, ch 81.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(80 hdc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 5**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of each st across	**(80 hdc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 5: tick them off as you go.

☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 22 in (56 cm) to sew with.	

Camel strip

Yarn B, camel.

☐ **Foundation**	With B, ch 81.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(80 hdc)**

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☐ **Rows 2 to 5**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of each st across	**(80 hdc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 5: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 22 in (56 cm) to sew with.	

Chestnut strip

Yarn C, chestnut.

☐ **Foundation**	With C, ch 81.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Hdc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(80 hdc)**
☐ **Rows 2 to 5**	Ch 1, turn; hdc in BLO of each st across	**(80 hdc)**

A box for each row, 2 to 5: tick them off as you go.

2 3 4 5

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of about 22 in (56 cm) to sew with.	

Assembly

1. Weave in the beginning tail of each strip. Leave the long tails.

2. Lay the three strips side by side on a table, the long way away from you, each with the right side up, its foundation chain on the left and its last row on the right: cream on the left, camel in the middle and chestnut on the right. The long tails hang at the far ends. Pin the three far ends to each other with the safety pins, side by side and touching, and hold them down with the clip or the book.

3. Braid: lay the strip on the right over the middle one, so that it is now the middle strip; then lay the strip on the left over the middle one, so that it is now the middle strip. Work these two moves 9 times, 18 crossings in all. Each strip keeps its right side up all the way: slide it across flat and do not fold it or turn it over. Do not pull: push the crossings together or apart until the whole braid is about 32 in (81 cm) long and 6¼ in (16 cm) wide, with each crossing about 1¾ in (4.5 cm) from the next. The strips overlap and pucker a little. At the end they lie in the order in which they began: cream, camel, chestnut.

4. Take out the pins and bring the two ends of the braid together to a ring, the right side outside. Do not twist the braid as a whole. Each strip now meets its own beginning, row 1 to row 1 and row 5 to row 5: cream to cream, camel to camel, chestnut to chestnut.

5. Seams: with its long tail whip stitch the two ends of the cream strip together, edge to edge, 2 stitches to each of the 5 row ends: 10 stitches. Fasten off and weave in the tail. Close the camel strip and the chestnut strip in the same way, each with its own tail.

6. Slide the seams over each other, so that the braid goes on across them at its full width of about 6¼ in (16 cm), and push the crossings into place all round. Put the cowl on over the head, with the seams at the back.

Finishing

- All the ends are woven in as you put it together.

In all: 3 pieces; 1,200 stitches (400 in the cream strip, 400 in the camel strip, 400 in the chestnut strip).

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