Lace Christmas ball cover

US terms



Finished size
About to cover a smooth ball 3 in (7.6 cm) across; each cap measures about 2¼ in (5.7 cm) from its magic ring to the tip of a scallop

Skill
Easy
Worked in rounds, with 2 pieces and color changes.

Yarn
Lace (0), 2 colors

Hook
1.75 mm (US steel, between 6 and 7)

Gauge
34 stitches and 36 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: white, rounds 1 to 9 **about 35 yd (32 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: gold, the sewn details **about 4 yd (4 m), an estimate**
Fiber: cotton crochet thread, size 10
Hook: 1.75 mm (US steel, between 6 and 7), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a yarn needle, scissors, pins for blocking, a spray bottle, a board that takes pins and a smooth ball 3 in (7.6 cm) across, which is about 9½ in (24 cm) round and with no metal cap or with its cap taken off.

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 and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

Abbreviations

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

ch	chain stitch
sl st	slip stitch (UK ss, slip stitch)
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
sp	space
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side

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Gauge

34 stitches and 36 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. After round 2 the cap measures about 1 in (2.5 cm) across. If yours is larger, use a smaller hook; if it is smaller, use a larger hook.

Before you start

- Rounds are worked with the right side facing; do not turn.
- Magic ring: wrap the yarn round two fingers, work the first round or row into the loop, then pull the tail until the ring is closed. Four chains joined into a ring with a slip stitch may be used instead.
- A chain that counts as a stitch is marked so in its line and is included in the count.
- A chain 1 at the start of a round does not count as a stitch.
- A slip stitch at the start of a round only carries the yarn to the place named; the first stitch of the round is worked in that same place. If stitches lie between the joining and that place, slip stitch across them first.
- The figures in brackets at the end of a line count its stitches and the chain spaces between them; slip stitches are not counted.
- The tip of a scallop is the ch-3 sp in the middle of a shell of round 9. From round 4 on a cap has fewer stitches than would lie flat, so that it bends down over the ball.
- The distances under FINISHING are for the yarn and gauge above; in another yarn make them larger or smaller in the same proportion as the size.
- The same words in another yarn make another size, measured straight across: fine yarn (2) and a 3.25 mm hook, about 4¾ in (12 cm); light yarn (3) and a 4 mm hook, about 5¾ in (15 cm); medium yarn (4) and a 5 mm hook, about 7¼ in (18 cm).

Instructions

Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. Round brackets ( ) inside a line hold stitches that all go into one place. The count in round brackets at the end of a line is what that line leaves. Tick the box when a round is done. In UK terms sl st is slip stitch, sc is double crochet and dc is treble.

Cap: make 2

Yarn A, white.

☐ **Foundation**	With A, make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 3 (counts as dc), 11 dc in ring, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	**(12 dc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 4 (counts as dc and ch-1), **[**dc in next st, ch 1**] 11 times**, sl st in 3rd ch of ch-4 to join	**(12 dc, 12 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Sl st in next ch-1 sp, ch 3 (counts as dc), dc in same sp, ch 1, **[**2 dc in next ch-1 sp, ch 1**] 11 times**, sl st in top of ch-3 to join	**(24 dc, 12 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Sl st in next ch-1 sp, ch 1, sc in same sp, ch 5, **[**sc in next ch-1 sp, ch 5**] 11 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(12 sc, 12 ch-5 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Sl st in next ch-5 sp, ch 1, sc in same sp, ch 6, **[**sc in next ch-5 sp, ch 6**] 11 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(12 sc, 12 ch-6 sps)**

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☐ **Rnd 6**	Sl st in next ch-6 sp, ch 1, sc in same sp, ch 7, **[**sc in next ch-6 sp, ch 7**] 11 times**, sl st in first sc to join **(12 sc, 12 ch-7 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Sl st in next ch-7 sp, ch 3 (counts as dc), (dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in same sp, **[**(2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next ch-7 sp**] 11 times**, sl st in top of ch-3 to join **(48 dc, 12 ch-2 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	Sl st in next ch-2 sp, ch 3 (counts as dc), (dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in same sp, ch 1, **[**(2 dc, ch 2, 2 dc) in next ch-2 sp, ch 1**] 11 times**, sl st in top of ch-3 to join **(48 dc, 12 ch-2 sps, 12 ch-1 sps)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Sl st in next ch-2 sp, ch 3 (counts as dc), (2 dc, ch 3, 3 dc) in same sp, dc in next ch-1 sp, **[**(3 dc, ch 3, 3 dc) in next ch-2 sp, dc in next ch-1 sp**] 11 times**, sl st in top of ch-3 to join **(84 dc, 12 ch-3 sps)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a 6 in (15 cm) tail.

Finishing

- Weave in the ends of both caps. Block: lay each cap on a board that takes pins, such as a foam board, right side up, and put a pin in every scallop tip, as far out as it goes without pulling. The middle stands up, because a cap is meant to cup. Spray it with water and let it dry.
- For the hanging loop, join B with a slip stitch in any st of round 1 of one cap, ch 18, sk next 5 sts of round 1, work a slip stitch in the next one, straight across the ring, and fasten off. This cap is the upper one.
- For the lacing, with B, begin with a 10 in (25 cm) tail, ch 98 and fasten off, leaving a 10 in (25 cm) tail: the chain is about 11½ in (29 cm) long, as long as its way round the ball.
- Put the ball between the two caps, their right sides out, the magic ring of the upper cap on top and the ring of the other cap exactly below. If the ball has a hole where a metal cap was, let the hole lie under the upper ring. Turn the lower cap until each of its scallop tips stands midway between two scallop tips of the upper cap.
- Thread one tail of the lacing chain on the yarn needle. Bring the needle out through the ch-3 sp of any scallop of the upper cap, from the ball side, and draw the chain through until its other end lies behind that scallop, with only the tail left hanging. Then go on to the left: bring the needle out, from the ball side, through the ch-3 sp of the next scallop of the lower cap, then of the next scallop of the upper cap, and so on, down and up by turns, through all 24 ch-3 sps.
- Draw the chain up, beginning at the first tip and going all the way round, until both caps lie close to the ball and the tips of the upper cap are about ¼ in (0.6 cm) above those of the lower cap, measured straight up and down. The two ends of the chain now meet behind the first tip. Tie the two tails together in a double knot there. If the chain came out too long, let what is left of it lie behind the shell of the first tip, between the lace and the ball. Push the knot under the lace.
- Weave in all the ends that are left with the yarn needle.

In all: 2 pieces; 528 stitches.

Found a mistake in this pattern? Tell us at flossfield.com, under Make a request.

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