Lion mane for cats

Medium cat, head 10 in (25.5 cm) · US terms



Finished size
About 9¾ in (25 cm) round and about 3½ in (9 cm) wide, measured along the band and across it without its loops, which stand out about 1½ in (4 cm) all round
To fit a head of 10 in (25.5 cm)

Skill
Intermediate
Loop stitch in rows, small pieces sewn on

Yarn
Medium (4), 2 colors

Hook
5.5 mm (US I-9)

Gauge
13 stitches and 14 rows to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet, worked in rows.

You will need

Yarn A: honey, the honey rows and the ears **about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**

Yarn B: cinnamon, the cinnamon rows, the inner ears and the ties **about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**

Hook: 5.5 mm (US I-9), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a soft tape measure, a stitch marker, a yarn needle, scissors and pins.

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.

Sizes

Size	Head	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Small cat	9 in (23 cm)	8½ in (21.5 cm) round, 3½ in (9 cm) wide	about 75 yd (69 m)
Medium cat (this file)	**10 in (25.5 cm)**	**9¾ in (25 cm) round, 3½ in (9 cm) wide**	**about 80 yd (73 m)**
Large cat	11¼ in (28.5 cm)	10¾ in (27.5 cm) round, 3½ in (9 cm) wide	about 85 yd (78 m)

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Abbreviations

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

ch	chain
sc	single crochet (UK dc, double crochet)
hdc	half double crochet (UK htr, half treble)
dc	double crochet (UK tr, treble)
st	stitch
rnd	round
RS	right side
MR	magic ring

Special stitches

llp (long loop stitch): It is worked with the wrong side of the mane facing you, and its loop hangs on the far side, which is the right side. Insert the hook in the place named, wrap the yarn over a finger of the other hand, held behind the work, to make a loop about 1½ in (4 cm) long, catch both strands at the foot of that loop with the hook and pull them through the stitch (3 loops on the hook), let the long loop slip off the finger, yarn over and pull through all 3 loops. Tug each long loop once, so that it holds. In the next row the stitch over a long loop stitch goes under its two top loops, as usual. It leaves 1 long loop stitch for the next row or round.

Gauge

13 stitches and 14 rows to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet, worked in rows.

The gauge is measured on the mane itself, after row 8: across the 8 rows, which sets the size, and along a row, which sets the width. A row of long loop stitch is counted here as high as a row of single crochet.

Use any hook that gives you this. If you count more stitches than this in 4 in (10 cm), change to a larger hook; if you count fewer, to a smaller one.

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. After row 8, lay the band flat, loops underneath and not stretched, and measure it along a row: it should be about 3½ in (9 cm) long.

Before you start

- Measure the cat's head where the mane will lie: put a soft tape loosely over the top of the head just in front of the ears, down both cheeks and under the chin, and choose the size whose head measurement is nearest. Each size is made from about ¼ to about ½ in (0.5 to 1.5 cm) shorter than that, and the ties close it under the chin. The cat's own ears lie back under the band. The mane is worn for a short time only, while somebody is there.
- The pattern is written in United States terms, the directions of the special stitches too; the United Kingdom term stands beside each stitch in the list of abbreviations.
- The ears are begun with a magic ring and worked in a spiral: no chain at the start of a round and no slip stitch at its end; put a marker in the first stitch of each round and move it up every round. The right side faces you.
- The chain at the start of a row does not count as a stitch. After the turn the first stitch of the row goes into the stitch nearest the hook, which is the last stitch of the row before, and the last goes into the first stitch of the row before, so that every row has the same number of stitches; the chains skipped at the start of row 1 do not count either.
- The number at the end of each line is the number of stitches it has when it is finished; chains and slip stitches that are not named there are not counted.
- Whip stitch: hold the two edges together and sew them over and over, the needle always going in from the same side, through one stitch of each edge at a time.
- The inner ears are worked in rows: the chain at the start of a row does not count as a stitch, and the first stitch after the turn goes into the last stitch of the row before.

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- The mane is a narrow band worked in short rows from one end to the other; its rows lie across the band. The odd rows are single crochet with the right side facing you; the even rows are long loop stitch with the wrong side facing you, so that all the loops hang on the right side.
- To change yarn at the start of a row, pull the new yarn through in the last yarn over of the last stitch of the row before. Yarn B is joined in this way at the end of row 2, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm). Every change comes at the end of an even row, and so always at the same long edge, where the odd rows begin: the yarn not in use hangs there. Do not cut it until the line says so; carry it up loosely along that edge past the two rows of the other yarn.
- Each ear and each inner ear begins with a magic ring: wrap the yarn once round two fingers, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm), and with the hook draw a loop of the working yarn up through the ring. Make 1 chain to hold the loop, and do not count it. Work the stitches of the first line into the ring, over the tail too, then pull the tail until the ring is closed.

Instructions

Chosen: Medium cat, head 10 in (25.5 cm). 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 row is done. In UK terms sc is double crochet, hdc is half treble and dc is treble.

Mane

Yarns in order of use: A, honey; B, cinnamon.

☐ **Foundation**	Ch 12, leaving a tail of 10 in (25 cm) before the first chain.	

Band

☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; llp in each st across	**(11 llp)**
☐ **Row 3**	With B, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Row 4**	Ch 1, turn; llp in each st across	**(11 llp)**
☐ **Row 5**	With A, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Rows 6 to 8**	Repeat rows 2 to 5 in order, over and over. The last row before you stop, row 8, is worked as row 4.	

A box for each row, 6 to 8: tick them off as you go. The heavy box is where you stop and measure.

6 7 **8**

> **Stop and measure now, after row 8.** Lay the band flat, loops underneath and not stretched, and measure it along a row: it should be about 3½ in (9 cm) long. Then measure across the rows: the 8 rows should measure about 2¼ in (5.8 cm) from the outer side of row 1 to the outer side of row 8. This sets the size: if they measure more, begin again with a smaller hook; if less, with a larger one. If the 8 rows measure right and the row is longer or shorter than it should be, keep the hook: the band only comes out that much wider or narrower.

☐ **Rows 9 to 32**	Go on repeating rows 2 to 5 in order, over and over. Row 9 is worked as row 5. The last row, row 32, is worked as row 4.	

A box for each row, 9 to 32: tick them off as you go.

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

Row 32 is the last row of yarn B. Change to yarn A in its last yarn over as before, then cut yarn B, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).

☐ **Row 33**	With A, ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	**(11 sc)**
☐ **Row 34**	Ch 1, turn; llp in each st across	**(11 llp)**
☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 10 in (25 cm).	

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Ear: make 2

Yarn A, honey.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	5 sc in MR	**(5 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	2 sc in each st around	**(10 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 3 to 4**	Sc in each st around	**(10 sc)**

A box for each round, 3 to 4: tick them off as you go.

3 4

☐ **End**	Slip stitch in the next stitch. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 20 in (51 cm) for sewing.	

Inner ear: make 2

Yarn B, cinnamon.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	3 sc in MR	**(3 sc)**
☐ **Row 2**	Ch 1, turn; (sc, hdc) in next st, 2 dc in next st, (hdc, sc) in next st	**(2 sc, 2 hdc, 2 dc)**
☐ **End**	Pull the ring closed. Fasten off, leaving a tail of 12 in (30.5 cm) for sewing.	

Assembly

1. Pull the ring of each ear tight once more and weave its starting tail in on the inside. Then flatten each ear and close it across the open edge with whip stitch, with its own long tail; keep what is left of the tail for sewing the ear on.

2. Lay an inner ear, the side that faced you in its row 1 up, on one face of each closed ear, its straight side along the closed edge of the ear, its rounded side toward the top of the ear and the same amount of the ear showing at each end of it. Sew it down all round through that face only and hide its ends under it. That face is the front of the ear.

3. The side with the loops is the right side and the outside. The long edge of the band where the odd rows begin has the carried strands of yarn on it: that is the back edge. The other long edge, where the odd rows end, is plain: that is the edge round the face. Hold the band with the loops away from you and the edge round the face at the top, and count the rows along that edge, each row one place. Pin the closed edge of one ear along the edge from row 12 to row 16 and of the other from row 19 to row 23, 5 rows for each ear, the inner ears facing you: the 2 rows between the two ears are the top of the mane. Sew each ear to the edge stitches, along the front and then along the back of its closed edge, so that when the mane is worn the ears stand up in front of the loops with the inner ears to the front.

4. Ties (make 2, one at each short end of the band): for each tie cut 3 strands of yarn B 27 in (68.5 cm) long. With the hook pull them halfway through the middle of the short end, at one end through the 6th stitch of row 34 and at the other through the 6th chain of the beginning chain, so that 6 ends hang level; part them in 3 pairs, braid for about 9 in (23 cm), knot and trim the ends. The two short ends meet under the chin and stay open: the ties hold them, tied in a loose bow.

Finishing

- Weave in every end on the inside of the mane.

In all: 5 pieces.

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