Preemie cap with hearts

Preemie, head 12 in (30 cm) · US terms



Finished size
About 11 in (28 cm) round and about 4¾ in (12 cm) deep
To fit a head of 12 in (30 cm)

Skill
Intermediate
Joined rounds, two colors carried in the rounds of hearts, a ribbed edge

Yarn
Super fine (1), 3 colors

Hook
3.25 mm (US D-3)

Gauge
22 stitches and 24 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)
In single crochet.

You will need

Yarn A: ivory, the cap	**about 40 yd (37 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: coral, the hearts	**about 15 yd (14 m), an estimate**
Yarn C: mint, the line and the edge	**about 25 yd (23 m), an estimate**

Hook: 3.25 mm (US D-3), or the size that gives you the gauge. Also: a soft tape measure, a yarn needle and scissors.

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
Preemie, small	10 in (25 cm)	8¾ in (22 cm) round, 3¾ in (10 cm) deep	about 60 yd (55 m)
Preemie (this file)	**12 in (30 cm)**	**11 in (28 cm) round, 4¾ in (12 cm) deep**	**about 80 yd (73 m)**
Newborn	13½ in (34 cm)	12¾ in (32 cm) round, 5 in (13 cm) deep	about 95 yd (87 m)

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Abbreviations

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

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

Special stitches

FPdc (front post double crochet; UK FPtr): Yarn over, insert the hook from front to back and to the front again around the post of the stitch named, and finish as a double crochet. The post stands out toward you. It leaves 1 front post double crochet for the next round.

BPdc (back post double crochet; UK BPtr): Yarn over, insert the hook from back to front and to the back again around the post of the stitch named, and finish as a double crochet. The post stands away from you. It leaves 1 back post double crochet for the next round.

Gauge

22 stitches and 24 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in single crochet.

The gauge is measured on the cap itself, at the two places the rounds name: across the crown, which checks the height of the rounds, and round the outside of the cap with a soft tape, along the round just worked, which checks the stitches and so the size round. If the cap measures more round than its round says, begin again with a smaller hook; if less, with a larger one. If it is right round and the crown measures more than it says, your rounds are taller than the gauge and the cap will come out deeper than stated; if the crown measures less, it will come out shallower. The depths given are worked out from the rounds: to 4 in (10 cm) go 24 rounds of single crochet or 12 rounds of double crochet or 12 rounds of post stitches. Post stitches often come out a little shorter than that, and then the cap is a little shallower than stated.

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. After round 13, put a soft tape round the outside of the cap along that round, without pulling it in: the cap should measure about 11 in (28 cm) round.

The pattern also stops you to measure after round 10.

Before you start

- Measure the head if you can: put a soft tape round its widest part, across the middle of the forehead and just above the ears, and choose the size whose head measurement is nearest. Each size is made about 1 in (2.5 cm) smaller round than the head it is for, as nearly as whole repeats of its stitches allow, so that it stays on.
- 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 cap 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. Keep that loop on the hook and make the chain that round 1 begins with; where round 1 names no chain, make 1 chain to hold the loop, and do not count it. Work the stitches of round 1 into the ring, over the tail too, then pull the tail until the ring is closed.
- The right side of the cap faces you in every round; the rounds are never turned.

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- A joined round begins with a chain that does not count as a stitch and ends with a slip stitch in its first stitch. Unless the line says otherwise, the first stitch of the next round goes into the same place as that slip stitch.
- A post stitch goes around the post of the stitch straight below it in the round before, whatever kind of stitch that is; the line says whether it is a front post or a back post stitch.
- To change yarn at the start of a round, finish the joining slip stitch of the round before with the new yarn. Where a yarn rests for 4 rounds or fewer before it is used again, carry it up the inside; where it rests for more, or is not used again, cut it, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).
- Where one round has two yarns, carry the yarn not in use along the top of the round before and work over it, and change yarn in the last yarn over of the stitch before the new color. Pull the carried yarn neither tight nor loose, so that the round keeps its size. The chain at the start of such a round is made in the yarn of its first stitch: finish the joining slip stitch before it with that yarn. A line that names no yarn goes on in the yarn the line before it ended with.
- 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.
- Choose a soft yarn that can be washed, and has no loose fibers. Nothing is sewn on and there is no seam. Weave the ends in flat, along the stitches, so that nothing hard lies against the head.
- Carry the resting yarn along every stitch of a two-color round, so that no strand hangs loose on the inside.

Instructions

Chosen: Preemie, head 12 in (30 cm). Square brackets [ ] hold a repeat: work what is inside as many times as it says. 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.

Yarns in order of use: A, ivory; C, mint; B, coral.

☐ **Foundation**	Make a magic ring.	
Crown		
☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)**	Ch 1, 6 sc in MR, sl st in first sc to join	**(6 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 2**	Ch 1, 2 sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(12 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 3**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next st**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(18 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 4**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 2 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(24 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 5**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 3 sts**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(30 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 6**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 4 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(36 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 7**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 5 sts**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(42 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 8**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 6 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(48 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 9**	Ch 1, **[**2 sc in next st, sc in next 7 sts**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(54 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 10**	Ch 1, **[**sc in next 8 sts, 2 sc in next st**] 6 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**

Stop and measure now, after round 10. The crown, laid flat, should measure about 3¼ in (8 cm) across.

Sides		
☐ **Rnd 11**	Ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 12**	With C, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 13**	With A, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**

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> **Stop and measure now, after round 13.** Put a soft tape round the outside of the cap along that round, without pulling it in: the cap should measure about 11 in (28 cm) round.

The hearts: the 60 stitches are 5 groups of 12. In each group the heart takes the first 9 stitches and 3 ivory stitches stand after it. The hearts are worked from the top down.

☐ **Rnd 14**	Ch 1, **[**with A, sc in next st, with B, sc in next 2 sts, with A, sc in next 3 sts, with B, sc in next 2 sts, with A, sc in next 4 sts**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 15**	Ch 1, **[**with B, sc in next 4 sts, with A, sc in next st, with B, sc in next 4 sts, with A, sc in next 3 sts**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnds 16 to 17**	Ch 1, **[**with B, sc in next 9 sts, with A, sc in next 3 sts**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**

A box for each round, 16 to 17: tick them off as you go.

16 17

☐ **Rnd 18**	Ch 1, **[**with A, sc in next st, with B, sc in next 7 sts, with A, sc in next 4 sts**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 19**	Ch 1, **[**with A, sc in next 2 sts, with B, sc in next 5 sts, with A, sc in next 5 sts**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 20**	Ch 1, **[**with A, sc in next 3 sts, with B, sc in next 3 sts, with A, sc in next 6 sts**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 21**	Ch 1, **[**with A, sc in next 4 sts, with B, sc in next st, with A, sc in next 7 sts**] 5 times**, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**
☐ **Rnd 22**	With A, ch 1, sc in each st around, sl st in first sc to join	**(60 sc)**

Edge

☐ **Rnd 23**	With C, ch 3, dc in each st around, sl st in first dc to join	**(60 dc)**
☐ **Rnds 24 to 25**	Ch 3, **[**FPdc around next st, BPdc around next st**] 30 times**, sl st in first FPdc to join	**(30 FPdc, 30 BPdc)**

A box for each round, 24 to 25: tick them off as you go.

24 25

☐ **End**	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Finishing

- Pull the ring at the start of the cap closed once more and weave its tail through the stitches of round 1 on the inside.
- Weave in every end on the inside of the cap.

In all: 25 rounds.

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