Ribbed balaclava

Woman, head 22 in (56 cm) · US terms



Finished size

About 20¾ in (53 cm) round and about 16 in (41 cm) long; the first measure is taken along round 1, before the rib draws in, and the second from the lower edge of the neck to the center of the top. The neck is about 3½ in (9 cm) high. The opening for the face is about 5¾ in (15 cm) wide and 5½ in (14 cm) high before its edge is worked, which takes about ¾ in (2 cm) from it all round

To fit a head of 22 in (56 cm)

Skill

Intermediate

Post stitch rib in joined rounds and in rows, an opening and a short decrease

Yarn

Light (3), 2 colors

Hook

4.5 mm (US 7)

Gauge

15 stitches and 8 rounds to 4 in (10 cm)

In double crochet (UK treble).

What you need

Yarn A: heathered deep charcoal, the balaclava **about 300 yd (274 m), an estimate**

Yarn B: burnt rust, the face edge **about 20 yd (18 m), an estimate**

By weight: about 130 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).

Hook: 4.5 mm (US 7), 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. Yarn A: the estimate is from the stitches and chains of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added. Yarn B: the estimate is from the stitches of this size at this gauge, with 30 percent added.

Sizes

Size	Head	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Child	19½ in (50 cm)	18½ in (47 cm) round, 14 in (36 cm) long	about 255 yd (233 m)
Teen	21 in (53 cm)	20 in (51 cm) round, 14 in (36 cm) long	about 270 yd (247 m)
Woman (this file)	**22 in (56 cm)**	**20¾ in (53 cm) round, 16 in (41 cm) long**	**about 320 yd (293 m)**

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Man	23 in (58 cm)	22½ in (57 cm) round, 17 in (43 cm) long	about 365 yd (334 m)
Man, large	24 in (61 cm)	23¼ in (59 cm) round, 17 in (43 cm) long	about 380 yd (347 m)

Gauge

15 stitches and 8 rounds to 4 in (10 cm) in double crochet.

The gauge is measured on the balaclava itself, round the outside along round 1, which is plain double crochet and sets the size round: if it measures more than the line under round 1 says, begin again with a smaller hook; if less, with a larger one. The lengths below are worked out from the rounds and rows: to 4 in (10 cm) go 8 rounds or rows of double crochet or of post stitches. Post stitches often come out a little shorter than that, and then the balaclava is a little shorter than stated.

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. After round 1, put a soft tape round the outside of the balaclava along that round, without pulling it in: the balaclava should measure about 20¾ in (53 cm) round.

Notes

- Measure the head: 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 ½ to 1¼ in (1.2 to 3 cm) smaller round than the head, measured before the rib draws in; the rib then gives as it is pulled on. The list below gives the measures of each size.
- The balaclava begins with a ring of chains: leave a tail of 6 in (15 cm) before the first chain, see that the chain is not twisted, and slip stitch in the first chain. Round 1 is worked into each chain, one stitch in each, the first of them into the chain that was joined. At the end sew the little gap at the foot of round 1 closed with the beginning tail.
- 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.
- Work the chain at the beginning loosely: the neck is pulled on over the head.
- The right side faces you in every round. A joined round begins with a chain that does not count as a stitch and ends with a slip stitch in its first stitch; the first stitch of the next round is worked in, or around the post of, that same first stitch.
- A post stitch goes around the post of the stitch straight below it in the round or row before, whatever kind of stitch that is; around a dc2tog it goes around both of its legs together. A dc2tog is worked into the tops of its two stitches and is counted as 1 dc. The top of a stitch that a post stitch has gone around is left alone.
- Beside the face the chain at the start of a row does not count as a stitch. After the turn the first stitch goes around the post of the last stitch of the row before, and the last one around the post of the first stitch of the row before. In a row with the wrong side toward you the front and the back posts are exchanged, as the lines say, so that on the right side the rib runs straight on: front posts stand over front posts.
- In the round after the chains the double crochet of "dc in next ch sp" all go under the chain, into the opening, side by side, one for each chain. Their first round of rib goes around their posts.
- For a child: someone stays by while it is worn, and it comes off for sleep.

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Instructions

Woman, head 22 in (56 cm). US terms.

ch chain, **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK double crochet), **dc** double crochet (UK treble), **st** stitch, **sp** space, **rnd** round.
sc2tog 2 sc made into one, **yo** yarn over the hook, **RS** right side, the one that shows.
ch-22 sp: the gap under 22 chains; the hook goes in the gap.
[ ] 26 times: work what is inside 26 times in all.
(78 dc): the stitches you have when the round is done. **How to read a pattern**.

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.

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.

dc2tog (double crochet 2 together; UK tr2tog): [Yarn over, pull up a loop in the next stitch, yarn over, pull through 2 loops] twice, yarn over and pull through all 3 loops: 1 stitch decreased.

Yarns in order of use: A, heathered deep charcoal; B, burnt rust, to finish.

☐ **Foundation** — Ch 78, sl st in first ch to form a ring.

Neck

☐ **Rnd 1 (RS)** — Ch 3, dc in each ch around, sl st in first dc to join (78 dc)

> **Stop and measure now, after round 1.** Put a soft tape round the outside of the balaclava along that round, without pulling it in: the balaclava should measure about 20¾ in (53 cm) round.

☐ **Rnds 2 to 7** — Ch 3, **[**FPdc around each of next 2 sts, BPdc around next st**] 26 times**, sl st in first FPdc to join (52 FPdc, 26 BPdc)

2 3 4 5 6 7

Beside the face

From here to row 17 the balaclava is worked to and fro in rows. Row 8 goes on from the joined stitch of round 7 without a turn, the right side toward you. The 22 stitches that row 8 leaves unworked are the chin: the lower edge of the opening for the face.

☐ **Row 8** — Ch 3, **[**FPdc around each of next 2 sts, BPdc around next st**] 18 times**, FPdc around each of next 2 sts, leave remaining 22 sts unworked (38 FPdc, 18 BPdc)

☐ **Row 9** — Ch 3, turn; **[**BPdc around each of next 2 sts, FPdc around next st**] 18 times**, BPdc around each of next 2 sts (38 BPdc, 18 FPdc)

☐ **Row 10** — Ch 3, turn; **[**FPdc around each of next 2 sts, BPdc around next st**] 18 times**, FPdc around each of next 2 sts (38 FPdc, 18 BPdc)

☐ **Rows 11 to 17** — Repeat rows 9 and 10 in turn: every even-numbered row is worked as row 10, every odd-numbered row as row 9.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Over the forehead

☐ **Rnd 18** — Ch 3, turn; **[**FPdc around each of next 2 sts, BPdc around next st**] 18 times**, FPdc around each of next 2 sts, ch 22, sl st in first FPdc to join (38 FPdc, 18 BPdc, 1 ch-22 sp)

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Row 17 was a row with the wrong side toward you, so after the turn the right side faces you.

Work round 18 along the stitches, make the 22 chains loosely and without a twist, and slip stitch in the first front post double crochet of this round: the opening is closed at the top. From here on do not turn any more.

☐ **Rnd 19**	Ch 3, **[**FPdc around each of next 2 sts, BPdc around next st**] 18 times**, FPdc around each of next 2 sts, 22 dc in next ch-22 sp, sl st in first FPdc to join	(38 FPdc, 18 BPdc, 22 dc)

Head

☐ **Rnds 20 to 27**	Ch 3, **[**FPdc around each of next 2 sts, BPdc around next st**] 26 times**, sl st in first FPdc to join	(52 FPdc, 26 BPdc)

20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

Top

☐ **Rnd 28**	Ch 3, **[**dc2tog over next 2 sts, BPdc around next st**] 26 times**, sl st in first dc to join	(26 dc, 26 BPdc)
☐ **Rnds 29 to 30**	Ch 3, **[**FPdc around next st, BPdc around next st**] 26 times**, sl st in first FPdc to join	(26 FPdc, 26 BPdc)

29 30

☐ **Rnd 31**	Ch 3, **[**dc2tog over next 2 sts**] 26 times**, sl st in first dc to join	(26 dc)
☐ **Rnd 32**	Ch 3, **[**dc2tog over next 2 sts**] 13 times**, sl st in first dc to join	(13 dc)
☐ **End**	Cut the yarn, leaving a tail of 15 in (38 cm). Thread it in the yarn needle, run it through the top of each of the 13 stitches of round 32 one after the other, twice round, pull the hole closed and fasten the tail off on the inside.	

Putting it together

Face edge, in yarn B, 3 rounds of single crochet (UK double crochet). Hold the balaclava upright, the neck at the bottom, with the right side toward you. Round 1: join yarn B with a slip stitch in the first of the 22 free stitches of round 7, the one at the right-hand end, ch 1, and beginning in the same stitch work 1 single crochet in each of the 22 free stitches (22 sc); up the edge on your left 2 single crochet in the end of each of the 10 rows and 2 in the end of round 18 above them (22 sc); along the top 22 single crochet into the opening over the 22 chains of round 18: the hook goes under the chains, between the feet of the double crochet that stand on them (22 sc); down the edge on your right 2 single crochet in the end of round 18 and 2 in the end of each of the 10 rows (22 sc). Slip stitch in the first single crochet to join: 88 single crochet. "In the end of a row" means round the edge stitch or the turning chain of that row. Round 2: ch 1, beginning in the joined stitch [1 single crochet in each of the next 6 stitches, sc2tog over the next 2 stitches] 11 times, slip stitch in the first single crochet to join (77 sc). Round 3: ch 1, 1 single crochet in each stitch around, the first in the joined stitch, slip stitch in the first single crochet to join (77 sc). Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm). Sc2tog, single crochet 2 together (UK dc2tog, double crochet 2 together): pull up a loop in each of the next 2 stitches, yarn over and pull through all 3 loops.

Finishing

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

In all: 32 rounds and rows.

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

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