Shell stitch baby hat

Baby, 3 to 6 months, head 15 in (38 cm) · US terms



Finished size
About 14½ in (37 cm) round and about 5¾ in (15 cm) deep, measured to the tips of the shells
To fit a head of 15 in (38 cm)

Skill
Easy
Joined rounds, groups of five double crochet, a bow sewn on

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: pink, the hat **about 65 yd (59 m), an estimate**
Yarn B: white, the edge and the bow **about 10 yd (9 m), an estimate**
By weight: about 30 g in all, an estimate, where 100 g is 250 yd (229 m).
Hook: 4.5 mm (US 7). Also: a soft tape measure, a yarn needle and scissors.

Before you start

- On a baby: sew every part on firmly all round, and take the hat off for sleep.

Sizes

Size	Head	Finished size, about	Yarn, an estimate
Newborn	13½ in (34 cm)	12¾ in (32 cm) round, 5 in (13 cm) deep	about 60 yd (55 m)
Baby, 3 to 6 months (this file)	**15 in (38 cm)**	**14½ in (37 cm) round, 5¾ in (15 cm) deep**	**about 75 yd (69 m)**
Baby, 6 to 12 months	16½ in (42 cm)	16 in (41 cm) round, 6½ in (17 cm) deep	about 100 yd (91 m)
Toddler	18 in (46 cm)	17½ in (44 cm) round, 7 in (18 cm) deep	about 115 yd (105 m)

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Gauge

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

Check your gauge on the piece. Begin the pattern and measure the piece itself as you go. After round 6, put a soft tape round the outside of the hat along that round, without pulling it in: the hat should measure about 14½ in (37 cm) round.

The gauge is measured on the hat itself, at the two places the rounds name: across the crown, which checks the height of the rounds, and round the outside of the hat with a soft tape, along the round just worked, which checks the stitches and so the size round. If the hat 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 hat will come out deeper than stated; if the crown measures less, it will come out shallower. A round of shells is counted at 5 rounds to 2 in (5 cm), because each shell sits in the hollow between two shells. The depths given are worked out from the rounds: to 4 in (10 cm) go 16 rounds of single crochet or 8 rounds of double crochet.

The pattern also stops you to measure after round 4.

Instructions

Baby, 3 to 6 months, head 15 in (38 cm). US terms.

ch chain, **dc** double crochet (UK tr), **sl st** slip stitch, **sc** single crochet (UK dc), **sk** skip, **st** stitch.

2 dc in next st: **both in one stitch**. Dc in next 2 sts: one in each.

Do not turn: the outside faces you all the time. The ch 3 is not a stitch. The first dc goes **where the slip stitch went**.

Working in the round

[ ] 12 times: 12 times in all. (36 dc): the round now has 36; a check, not a step. Not 36? **Pull it back**.

Also: RS right side.

Every stitch, drawn: flossfield.com/crochet/stitches.

Hat

Begin with yarn A, pink.

☐ **Start**	Make a magic ring. *The hat 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.*	

Crown

☐ **Round 1 (RS)**	Ch 3, 12 dc in the ring, pull the tail to close it, sl st in first dc to join	(12 dc)
☐ **Round 2**	Ch 3, 2 dc in each st around, sl st in first dc to join	(24 dc)
☐ **Round 3**	Ch 3, **[**2 dc in next st, dc in next st**] 12 times**, sl st in first dc to join	(36 dc)
☐ **Round 4**	Ch 3, **[**dc in next 2 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 12 times**, sl st in first dc to join	(48 dc)

> **Stop and measure now, after round 4.** The crown, laid flat, should measure about 4 in (10 cm) across. Larger? Begin again with a smaller hook. Smaller? A larger hook.

☐ **Round 5**	Ch 3, **[**dc in next 7 sts, 2 dc in next st**] 6 times**, sl st in first dc to join	(54 dc)

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Sides

☐ **Round 6**	Ch 3, dc in each st around, sl st in first dc to join	(54 dc)

> **Stop and measure now, after round 6.** Put a soft tape round the outside of the hat along that round, without pulling it in: the hat should measure about 14½ in (37 cm) round.

Round 7 sets out the shells on the plain double crochet. In every round after it each shell goes in a single crochet and each single crochet goes in the third, the middle stitch, of a shell.

☐ **Round 7**	Ch 3, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 9 times**, sl st in first dc to join	(45 dc, 9 sc)
☐ **Round 8**	Sl st in next 3 sts, ch 1, sc in same st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st, **[**sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts, 5 dc in next st**] 8 times**, sl st in first sc to join	(9 sc, 45 dc)
☐ **Rounds 9 to 12**	Repeat rounds 7 and 8 in turn: every even-numbered round is worked as round 8, every odd-numbered round as round 7.	

9 10 11 12

Edge

☐ **Round 13**	With B, ch 3, **[**5 dc in next st, sk next 2 sts, sc in next st, sk next 2 sts**] 9 times**, sl st in first dc to join	(45 dc, 9 sc)
☐	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm).	

Bow

Yarn B, white.

☐ **Start**	Ch 8, leaving a tail of 6 in (15 cm) before the first chain.	
☐ **Row 1 (RS)**	Sc in 2nd ch from hook and in each ch across	(7 sc)
☐ **Rows 2 to 4**	Ch 1, turn; sc in each st across	(7 sc)

2 3 4

☐	Fasten off, leaving a tail of 30 in (76 cm).	

Assembly

1. Pull the ring at the start of the hat closed once more and weave its tail through the stitches of round 1 on the inside.

2. Bow: weave the beginning tail of the strip in along its edge first, on the back. With the needle run the long tail along the edge of the strip, through the edge stitches, to the middle of one long side. With the right side toward you, pleat the middle of the strip so that its end view is a W: its two long edges and the line halfway between them come toward you, with a valley on each side of that line. Wrap the tail tightly round the pleats about 8 times to make the knot; fasten it at the back. The place where the last round of the hat is joined is the middle of the back; the middle of the front is opposite it. With what is left of the tail sew the bow, through its knot, to the middle of the front, its knot over round 11, the bow lying level.

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Finishing

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

In all: 2 pieces; 634 stitches (606 in the hat, 28 in the bow).

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.

Notes

- 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 smaller round than the head it is for, so that it stays on; by how much differs from size to size, because the stitches come in whole repeats. The table of sizes gives both measures of each.
- The right side of the hat faces you in every round; the rounds are never turned.
- The chain that begins a round is not a stitch. The first stitch goes in the same place as the slip 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).
- 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.
- The bow is 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.
- A shell is 5 double crochet worked in one place. A round of shells has 5 double crochet and 1 single crochet for every 6 stitches, so its stitch count is that of the hat.
- Two kinds of rounds of shells take turns. One begins with a shell: after the chain its first 5 double crochet go in the joined stitch itself. The other begins with slip stitches, which lead to the middle of a shell: the first of them goes in the joined double crochet itself, the second and the third in the next two, so that you stand over the third, the middle stitch, of a shell. The chain is made there and the first single crochet goes in that same middle stitch. The shell that ends such a round goes in the last single crochet of the round before and lies over the first two double crochet, the ones that were slip stitched, which are not worked again.
- Baby, 3 to 6 months: for a head of 15 in (38 cm). The finished hat is about 14½ in (37 cm) round and about 5¾ in (15 cm) deep, measured to the tips of the shells.

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

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