

Make a Crochet Beret

"You don't have to be a master crocheter, you just have to be able to make a chain and do a single crochet stitch. These directions are more like guidelines, you may have to fool around with it a bit. I always do. But, eventually you get a beret that fits you".

...Maurie Ange – the designer!



Materials

- Worsted Weight Yarn
- Crochet hook that yarn specifies

Legend

Beg = begin; **ch** = chain, **sc** = single crochet, **dc** = double crochet

The Beret Pattern

Round 1 - Ch 4 sts and join into a circle.

Round 2 - Work 8 sc in the circle.

Round 3 - Work 2 sc in each stitch.

Round 4 - Mark the spot where the new round starts.

Round 5 - Work *1 sc in the first stitch, and 2 sc* repeat to end of round.

Round 6 - Work *1 sc in the 1st two stitches, 2 sc* repeat to end of round..

Round 7 - Work *1 sc in the next three stitches and 2 sc in the fourth* repeat to end of round..

Round 8 - Work *1 sc in the next four stitches and 2 sc in the fifth* repeat to end of round..

Round 9 and in each subsequent round, add one more stitch between increases in each row.

The idea is to make a big round pancake-looking thing that, when you put it on your head and bring down the sides until about the first ½ inch of your ears are covered. That is, if you want it as big proportionally on you as mine is on me. It will look like a large potholder

At this point you will want to start pulling the hat edge in. I kept on increasing for a couple more rows and I worked one or two plain, that is no increases, rows in between the increase rows. Then work a couple more "plain" rows, then start decreasing just like you increased, only backwards. Keep trying it on until it fits. Then you might want to do maybe three more "plain" rows, to make it hug your head.



208 Carmel Ave
El Cerrito, CA 94530

510.525.YARN (9276)
Call for Studio Hours

www.skeinlane.com
skeinlane@aol.com

Tips from Maurie

1. If you pass the marker in the middle of one set of stitches (for example: on stitch #7 out of fourteen you pass the marker and you were going to put two in the fifteenth) go to the next row's pattern, and put two in the 16th instead. At least, that's what I do.
2. If the edges get ruffly, you have to fool around with it. Usually when it's ruffly instead of flat, which is what it is supposed to be, it means that you have increased too fast. You need to tear it out until it's not ruffly anymore and increase the distances between the increase stitches by one or, you can do a row without any increases and then start increasing again.
3. If you want a rounder, more balloon shaped hat, you just put a lot more plain rows in between the increase and decrease rows. I made one like that once. You get to smoosh it into all kinds of shapes.

Trim Your Beret

You can use your imagination for what trim you would like to use. Someone at Maurie's work suggested that she put a bright floppy flower pin on her hat, right above her right ear. Maurie says, "It would have been cute, but I had this bee in my bonnet already."

So, Maurie put a knitted ribbon on her hat, tied it in a bow and then sewed it down, all around. This is what she did:

1. Select a lighter weight yarn that will go with your hat and that won't run if you wash it. "*I selected ecru, because it will go with my black raincoat and almost everything I own.*"
2. Decide how wide you want your ribbon. "*I somehow arrived at 9 stitches and I knitted it in stockinette*"
3. Make the ribbon long enough to go all the way around the top of your hat when it is smashed flat, with a margin of about one inch in my case and make sure it's long enough to tie a bow with maybe three inch ends before you bind off.
4. Put your smashed hat, top up, on a towel folded in a square about eight thicknesses.
5. Dampen the ribbon by putting it in a ball in your hand under the faucet.
6. Squeeze it out and arrange it on top of you hat. The dampness will allow you to lay it flat. Pin it down, poking the pins into the towel and use your finger tips to press it into the exact shape you want. When you are about four inches on either side of the bow, tie it loosely and use your fingertips to press it into the desired shape, and poke the pins into the bow as well.
7. After the bow is dry on the hat (it took about a day on top of my dryer), baste it down, while it lies on the towel and take the pins out. "*I used a curved needle.*" Be careful you don't baste it to the towel or the bottom half of the hat.
8. Then you can remove the hat, and using a smaller, straight needle, you can sew the edges of the trim to the hat.
9. Maurie likes to sew it thoroughly to the point that, if it is washed, and it comes out of the dryer, it will still look good.



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