

# Free Crochet Beanie Pattern for Beginners

## Top-Down HDC - Printable Pattern and Fit Guide

Worked route: 22 in head + 14 hdc per 4 in + 8% negative ease -> 72 stitches. Replace all inputs with your own measurement and swatch.

| At a glance     | Pattern decision                                                                     |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Style           | Fitted, brimless beanie; optional folded-edge depth guidance is included             |
| Yarn            | #4 Medium / Worsted is the easiest starting point                                    |
| Hook            | Start around 5-5.5 mm, then use the hook that produces the fabric and gauge you want |
| Fit method      | Actual head circumference + your swatch gauge + chosen negative ease                 |
| Adjustment unit | 4 stitches                                                                           |
| Worked example  | 22 in head, 14 hdc per 4 in, 8% negative ease -> 72 stitches                         |
| Terminology     | US crochet terms                                                                     |

### Before you print

- This pattern is derived from the current public CrochetTop article body verified on 2026-10-09.
- The 22 in / 56 cm route is a worked calculation with assumed inputs, not a universal adult size. Make and measure your own swatch, check the actual wearer when possible, and measure the work at all three checkpoints.

Source article: <https://crochettop.com/free-crochet-beanie-pattern/>

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### Materials

- #4 Medium / Worsted yarn. For an adult standard-depth beanie, keep roughly 170-220 yd / 155-200 m available; smaller hats may use less, while a deeper hat may use more.
- A crochet hook that produces the fabric and gauge you want. A 5-5.5 mm hook is a practical starting range for many worsted yarns.
- Flexible measuring tape.
- Ruler for measuring the center of the swatch.
- Stitch marker.
- Scissors.
- Yarn needle.

### References

Craft Yarn Council - Standard Yarn Weight System: <https://www.craftyarnCouncil.com/standards/yarn-weight-system>

Craft Yarn Council - Crochet Chart Symbols: <https://www.craftyarnCouncil.com/standards/crochet-chart-symbols>

Current CrochetTop article: <https://crochettop.com/free-crochet-beanie-pattern/>

# 1. Abbreviations and setup

Use your swatch and wearer measurement before copying the worked count.

## Abbreviations

| Abbreviation | Meaning                                 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------|
| ch           | chain                                   |
| hdc          | half double crochet                     |
| inc          | work 2 hdc in the same stitch           |
| hdc2tog      | half double crochet 2 stitches together |
| sl st        | slip stitch                             |
| st / sts     | stitch / stitches                       |

## Pattern notes

- Work in continuous rounds. Do not join at the end of each round.
- Place a marker in the first stitch and move it up after every round.
- Count after every increase round. Fix a wrong count before continuing.
- Eight increases are used in each full crown round.
- The optional bridge round adds four evenly spaced stitches when your target falls between two full increase rounds.
- The calculated crown diameter is a starting target. The fit after two even rounds is the more useful confirmation.

## The 22-inch worked route

- 1 Assume a 22 in head, 14 hdc stitches per 4 in, and 8% negative ease. Replace these inputs with the wearer's measurement and your own gauge.
- 2 The calculation selects 72 stitches and predicts about 20.57 in relaxed circumference at the assumed gauge.
- 3 Work Round 1 through Round 9, ending with 72 hdc. Work two even body rounds at the same count, then check the opening and crown shape.
- 4 Continue even rounds to the wearer's intended depth. Check the fit again before finishing the lower edge.

# 2. Crochet the crown

Count every increase round and stop at the count selected from your own calculation.

Make a magic ring. If you prefer not to use one, chain 2 and work Round 1 into the second chain from the hook.

| Round    | Instructions                                      | Count  |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Round 1  | Work 8 hdc into the ring.                         | 8 sts  |
| Round 2  | Work 2 hdc in every stitch.                       | 16 sts |
| Round 3  | Hdc in next st, inc in next st. Repeat around.    | 24 sts |
| Round 4  | Hdc in next 2 sts, inc in next st. Repeat around. | 32 sts |
| Round 5  | Hdc in next 3 sts, inc in next st. Repeat around. | 40 sts |
| Round 6  | Hdc in next 4 sts, inc in next st. Repeat around. | 48 sts |
| Round 7  | Hdc in next 5 sts, inc in next st. Repeat around. | 56 sts |
| Round 8  | Hdc in next 6 sts, inc in next st. Repeat around. | 64 sts |
| Round 9  | Hdc in next 7 sts, inc in next st. Repeat around. | 72 sts |
| Round 10 | Hdc in next 8 sts, inc in next st. Repeat around. | 80 sts |

- Continue the same rule if your calculation requires a larger count: add one more hdc between increases on every new full increase round.
- Stop at your chosen stitch count. If it is a multiple of 8, stop after the corresponding full increase round. If it is 4 stitches above a full-round count, use the bridge round.

**Full-round count rule: Round n has 8 x n stitches. Each full increase round adds exactly 8 stitches.**

### 3. Bridge round and circumference checks

Use the bridge only when the chosen count is four stitches above a full-round count.

#### Optional bridge round: add only 4 stitches

Let K be the stitch count at the end of your last full increase round.

**Stitches in each section =  $K / 4$**

**\*Hdc in the next ( $K / 4 - 1$ ) stitches, inc in the next stitch.\* Repeat 4 times.**

| Starting count | Bridge repeat               | New count |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 56             | Hdc 13, inc. Repeat 4 times | 60        |
| 64             | Hdc 15, inc. Repeat 4 times | 68        |
| 72             | Hdc 17, inc. Repeat 4 times | 76        |
| 80             | Hdc 19, inc. Repeat 4 times | 84        |

This half-step gets closer to a calculated size when the nearest full-round options are 8 stitches apart.

#### Checkpoint 1: read the crown shape

Lay the crown on a flat surface without stretching it, then compare both its shape and its measured diameter with the target.

| Observed shape                       | Decision                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Reasonably flat or gently cupped     | Continue and compare the diameter with your target.                                                                          |
| Strong waves or ruffles              | The crown is gaining width too quickly. Undo the last full increase round and consider the four-stitch bridge round instead. |
| Deep bowl before the target diameter | The crown is gaining width too slowly. Check the stitch count and gauge before adding another full increase round.           |
| Sharp point at the center            | Loosen the magic ring area and check that Round 1 contains all 8 stitches.                                                   |

Do not force the crown to match a diameter while ignoring its shape. Shape and measurement must agree.

#### Establish the beanie body

- Work 1 hdc in every stitch with no increases. Keep the same stitch count for two complete rounds.
- After two even rounds, stop and measure again. The fabric may continue to move outward as the flat crown changes into the sides of the hat.

#### Checkpoint 2: after two even rounds

Try the work on carefully when possible, or measure the opening without stretching it, after the two even rounds.

| Fit result                    | Action                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Comfortably snug              | Keep the current stitch count.                                                                                                         |
| Too loose                     | Undo the two body rounds and use the lower four-stitch option, or work one correction round with four evenly spaced hdc2tog decreases. |
| Too tight                     | Undo the body rounds and use the higher four-stitch option. Add four evenly spaced increases in one correction round.                  |
| Opening fits but still flares | Work one more even round before changing the count; some fabrics need an extra round to settle into the side wall.                     |

Width problems must be corrected here. Adding or removing body rounds changes depth, not circumference.

### 4. Work to depth and finish

Keep the confirmed circumference; change body rounds to change depth.

#### Continue to the required depth

- Continue working 1 hdc in every stitch until the beanie reaches the intended lower edge.
- Measure from the center top of the crown down the side to the current lower edge.
- For many adult standard beanies, 8-9.25 in / 20.5-23.5 cm is a useful checking range, but the intended wearer's measurement controls the final depth.
- Stop higher for a shallow style, continue to the earlobes for standard coverage, or add depth for fuller ear coverage.
- For a single folded-brim variation, add the fold depth once. Example: 8.5 in visible depth + 2 in fold = 10.5 in total crown-to-unfolded-edge depth. Fold the edge up and measure the visible depth before finishing.

**Depth example: 8.5 in visible depth + 2 in single fold = 10.5 in crown-to-unfolded-edge depth.**

Checkpoint 3: before the final edge

- 1 The lower edge stays in place without uncomfortable pressure.
- 2 The beanie reaches the intended point around the ears.
- 3 The crown is rounded without a large flat disk, point, or gathered excess.
- 4 If circumference fits but depth is wrong, change only the number of body rounds.

Finish the lower edge

- 1 Work one round of single crochet loosely around the lower edge.
- 2 If single crochet tightens the opening, use a hook 0.5 mm larger for this round or finish with one final round of hdc instead.
- 3 Slip stitch into the next stitch, cut the yarn, and pull the tail through.
- 4 Weave in both ends securely. Shape the beanie gently and follow the washing instructions on the yarn label.

Three decisions that stay separate

| Decision           | Controlled by                                  | Do not fix it by                                            |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Circumference      | Chosen stitch count after swatch and fit check | Adding or removing body rounds                              |
| Depth              | Number of even body rounds                     | Adding crown increases                                      |
| Lower-edge stretch | Finishing stitch, tension, and hook            | Changing the already confirmed crown count without evidence |

Reader check: measure the actual work. The dimensions in this PDF are planning inputs and calculated outputs.

5. Measure and make a useful swatch

A stitch count has meaning only with a gauge and a target fit.

Why one stitch count cannot fit everyone

- Two crocheters can use the same yarn label and hook but produce different gauges. At 72 stitches, 12 stitches per 4 in predicts 24 in, while 16 stitches per 4 in predicts 18 in.
- Use the intended wearer's head circumference, your hdc stitches per 4 in / 10 cm, and the stretch and snugness you want. Do not choose the final stitch count until all three are known.

Measure the head

- 1 Place a flexible tape above the eyebrows, pass it above both ears, and keep it level around the back of the head.
- 2 Hold it comfortably snug without pressing into the skin. Record the actual measurement before subtracting anything.
- 3 If the wearer cannot be measured, an age-based chart is only a planning reference, not a substitute for a real measurement.

Make and measure the swatch

- 1 Use the yarn, hook, and half-double-crochet fabric intended for the hat.
- 2 Make a swatch at least 6 in / 15 cm square so the outer edges do not distort the measured area.
- 3 Lay it flat without stretching. Across the center, count complete stitches in 4 in / 10 cm. Turn the ruler vertically and count rows in the same distance.
- 4 Record S = stitches per 4 in / 10 cm and R = rows per 4 in / 10 cm.
- 5 Record the relaxed width as L. Then gently stretch the swatch only to a comfortable and visually acceptable width and record that width as T.
- 6 Calculate comfortable horizontal stretch: (T - L) / L x 100. Use that percentage to choose a starting range from the table.
- 7 The yarn label's hook range is only a starting point; the swatch is the evidence for this project.

Choose a starting negative-ease range

Comfortable horizontal stretch (%) = (T - L) / L x 100, where L is relaxed width and T is comfortable stretched width.

| Comfortable horizontal stretch | Starting negative-ease range |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Less than about 10%            | 3-5%                         |
| About 10-20%                   | 5-8%                         |
| More than about 20%            | 8-12%                        |

These are planning ranges, not guaranteed fit. A firm fabric usually needs less negative ease than a springy fabric. If you dislike a tight hat, start at the lower end.

Make and measure your own swatch before choosing the count.

6. Calculate the count

Compare the nearest multiples of four, then confirm with the crown and two even rounds.

Formulas

| Use    | Formula                                                                         |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Step 1 | Target hat circumference = head circumference x (1 - negative-ease percentage)  |
| Step 2 | Target crown diameter = target hat circumference / 3.1416                       |
| Step 3 | Raw stitch count (inches) = target circumference x stitches per 4 in / 4        |
| Step 4 | Raw stitch count (centimeters) = target circumference x stitches per 10 cm / 10 |
| Step 5 | Lower option = round the raw stitch count down to the nearest multiple of 4     |
| Step 6 | Higher option = round the raw stitch count up to the nearest multiple of 4      |
| Step 7 | Estimated relaxed circumference (inches) = chosen stitches x 4 / S              |
| Step 8 | Estimated relaxed circumference (centimeters) = chosen stitches x 10 / S        |

Complete 22-inch worked calculation

- 1 Assumed head: 22 in / about 56 cm
- 2 Assumed gauge: 14 hdc stitches per 4 in
- 3 Chosen negative ease: 8%
- 4 Target circumference: 22 x 0.92 = 20.24 in
- 5 Target crown diameter: 20.24 / 3.1416 = 6.44 in
- 6 Metric target: 56 x 0.92 = 51.52 cm; 51.52 / 3.1416 = 16.40 cm
- 7 Raw stitch count: 20.24 x 14 / 4 = 70.84
- 8 Nearest multiples of 4: 68 and 72
- 9 68 stitches predicts 68 x 4 / 14 = 19.43 in
- 10 72 stitches predicts 72 x 4 / 14 = 20.57 in
- 11 72 is closer to 20.24, but measure the crown and check again after two even body rounds.

Same head, different gauge

| Gauge         | Raw result | Practical option | Calculated circumference |
|---------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 12 sts / 4 in | 60.72      | 60 sts           | 20.00 in / 50.8 cm       |
| 14 sts / 4 in | 70.84      | 72 sts           | 20.57 in / 52.3 cm       |
| 16 sts / 4 in | 80.96      | 80 sts           | 20.00 in / 50.8 cm       |

Copying another person's 72-stitch count without checking gauge can fail. Use your own measured S value.

7. Change yarn, hook, size, or fit

Keep the fabric you like when possible; recalculate instead of forcing a published number.

Two adjustment routes

| Route                           | Action                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Route A: match a specific gauge | Change hook size when you want to reproduce a stated gauge and like the fabric produced at that gauge.                                                |
| Route B: keep your own fabric   | If you like the texture and flexibility, keep the hook and recalculate from your own gauge rather than forcing a different fabric.                    |
| When wearer or yarn changes     | Measure the head; make and measure the new swatch; choose negative ease from the new fabric; recalculate and compare the nearest four-stitch options. |

Troubleshooting

| Problem                           | Likely cause                                               | What to change                                                      |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Crown ruffles strongly            | Too many increases for yarn/tension                        | Undo the last full increase round; use the bridge or an even round. |
| Crown forms a deep bowl too early | Too few increases, missed stitches, or tall/tight fabric   | Recount; add the next increase round if diameter is below target.   |
| Too loose after two body rounds   | Chosen circumference is too large or fabric stretches more | Reduce by 4 stitches and recalculate.                               |
| Too tight                         | Chosen circumference is too small or fabric is firmer      | Add 4 stitches or use less negative ease.                           |
| Opening fits; hat too short       | Not enough body rounds                                     | Add even rounds; do not add crown increases.                        |
| Opening fits; hat too deep        | Too many body rounds                                       | Remove even rounds; do not change the crown.                        |
| Lower edge suddenly tight         | Finishing round has tighter gauge                          | Work edge more loosely or use a slightly larger hook.               |
| Fabric holes too large            | Hook is large or hdc fabric too open                       | Try a smaller hook, reassess, and recalculate from the new gauge.   |

Change one variable at a time. Re-measure after a new hook, yarn, stitch count, or correction round.

8. FAQ and final check

Keep this page with the pattern when printing.

Frequently asked questions

Is this suitable for a complete beginner?

Yes, if you can make half double crochet and basic increases. The calculations use simple multiplication and division, and the worked example shows every step.

Can I skip the gauge swatch?

You can, but then the stitch count loses its meaning. A short swatch is faster than remaking a hat several inches too large or too small.

What if the raw count is exactly between two options?

Calculate both circumferences. Choose lower for firmer fit or higher for relaxed fit, then confirm after two even rounds.

Why did the hat keep widening after increases stopped?

The flat crown needs time to turn into the side wall. Some yarn/stitch combinations spread during the first even rounds; this is why Checkpoint 2 comes after two no-increase rounds.

Can I make the beanie slouchy?

Yes. Keep the confirmed circumference and add body depth. Do not enlarge the crown just to create slouch.

Can I substitute single or double crochet?

The measurement formulas still apply, but crown shaping changes with stitch height. Do not use the 8-hdc increase schedule unchanged.

Should I use a smaller hook for a smaller size?

Not automatically. A smaller hook changes size and stiffness. Recalculate for a different head size; change the hook only when you also want a different gauge or fabric.

Do not trust a stitch count by itself. Use stitch count, gauge, fabric stretch, and actual measurement together, then check the work before too much yarn is invested.

Final project check

- Your own swatch gauge is recorded.
- The chosen count's predicted circumference has been calculated.
- The crown shape and diameter agree at Checkpoint 1.
- The opening is confirmed after two even rounds at Checkpoint 2.
- Depth and lower-edge comfort are confirmed at Checkpoint 3.
- The finishing round does not tighten the opening.