

Haven Hats

pattern by Sonja Hakala

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These simple crocheted hats are flexible enough to accommodate a number of different yarns (except perhaps the super chunky kind) and quick enough that you can work them up in a matter of hours. I call them Haven Hats because I've been making and donating them to the Upper Valley Haven, our local homeless shelter, for years.

There are two variations of this hat, one with a bit of a pattern and a second that's all single crochet.

Because I buy yarn that I find in used-goods stores, it's difficult for me to tell you exactly how many ounces a particular hat will take. Suffice it to say that a skein of midweight acrylic yard with a sizable ball of yarn in the same weight but a different color for the topknot will do nicely. I use a G hook for single strand hats. If I combine two yarns of different weights—one lightweight and one mid-weight—then I use an H hook.

All stitches are worked in the back loop only.

Doing this gives the hats a ribbed effect. Ready? Let's begin.

Using a G hook, make a slip stitch for your first stitch leaving a long tail (at least six inches). Chain 46 stitches. Turn.

Single crochet (SC) in the second chain from hook. SC across chain, giving you 45 SC. Chain one. Turn.

Pattern Row 1: 5 SC in back loop.

****Treble crochet (TRC) in back of next loop, SC in back of following loop. Repeat this ** TRC/SC pattern ten times all together (20 stitches).**

20 SC in back loop. Chain one. Turn.



Pattern Row 2: SC in back loop. 45 stitches. Chain one. Turn. The photo above shows six ribs completed. Note the tail of yarn in the lower left corner of the photograph. This is the tail left from the slip stitch created at the beginning of the original chain row. This tail indicates what will become the top of your hat. The ribbing you see on the right of the above photograph will become the turned-up cuff of the hat.

Continue the two pattern rows until your hat has 32 ribs.

When you complete 32 ribs, your hat will look like the picture at top right. Your last row should be Pattern Row 1, ending at the bottom of the hat.

Note how the pattern stitch of TRC and SC makes the shape of the hat bow out.

Fold the hat in half so that your first row of chain stitches and your last row of the pattern are even with one another. This is the place where the hat is seamed together to make a tube. Use a slip stitch to join the two edges of the hat.



When you complete this seam, chain 50 stitches and tie off your yarn. Note in the



picture at left that the hat is now a tube. You can see the tail left by your original row of chain stitches and the row of 50 chain stitches that you just made. The picture on the right is just my hand showing through the tube just to make this a bit more clear.



Choose a contrasting yarn to make the topknot on your hat. Attach this yarn to the top edge of your hat with a slip stitch. See pictures to the left and below.



Once attached, chain 20 stitches. See picture at right.





Use a slip stitch to attach this chain to the next stitch to the right of where you began. In other words, you are making a loop of your chain stitches. Continue in this fashion, making loops of 20 chain stitches each, until you have made your way all around the top edge of the hat. When you have completed this step, your hat should look like the picture below. Knot off your topknot yarn, leaving about a two-inch tail.



Now return to the 50 chain stitches you made from the yarn in the body of your hat. Using your hook, weave this chain in and out of the stitches at the top of the hat, keeping as close as you can to the yarn in the topknot. When you have made the full circle, gently but firmly pull on this chain to cinch up the top of the hat. Make sure that all of the loops of the topknot are on the outside of the hat.

When you have snugged this up as well as you can (see picture above), tie the 50-chain piece to the tail you left when you made your first slip stitch. Knot it up good and tight then cut the extra, leaving about two inches of yarn.

Fluff up the topknot loops. Turn up the bottom of the hat in a ribbed cuff.





Topknot variation:

You can crochet your topknot from more than one color. In the example to the left, the topknot was crocheted in three colors. I started with the white yarn, making a chain of 22 stitches and attaching these chains in every third loop on the top edge of the hat. My second set of loops was in the red, starting in the loop just to the left of where I started the white. Chain 22 stitches and attach with a slip stitch to the loop just to the left of the attachment point of the first yarn. The third set of loops was in pink, starting in the loop just to the left of the red yarn's beginning point.

Clip all yarn ends at the top of the hat to approximately one inch and fluff them into the topknot. They'll blend in and become part of the overall effect.

One more idea: Add a little sparkle to your hat by adding glitter embroidery thread to the yarn you use to make the topknot.

Striped hat variation:

You can make your hats in more than one color such as the "Candy Cane" variation at left. Here's how.

After your initial row of SC but before you CH 1 to turn, cut your yarn, tie your second color to the first, CH 1 and then turn to make your first pattern row to the bottom of the hat, CH 1 and turn to SC back to the top. Cut the yarn before you CH 1, knot your next color, CH 1 and turn. Resume pattern.

The idea is to always change color at the top of the hat. Once you make the topknot and cinch the hat, trim back any long ends to one inch, fluff the topknot and the ends will blend in.

Single Crochet variation:

Using a G hook for a single strand hat, CH 45 stitches. SC in the back loop, CH 1 and turn. SC 45 stitches in every row until you have 40 ribs, ending at the bottom of the hat. Slip stitch the hat into a tube, as in the instructions above. Add your topknot, cinch the hat closed, turn up the bottom for a cuff and you're done.