

Crocheted Inca Hat, or Chullo

(pointed, with ear flaps and optional ties)

To use this pattern, you will need to know how to single crochet in the round and in rows, and how to increase, decrease and bind off. It is written right-handed, mirror everything to work left-handed.

ABBREVIATIONS USED:

ST stitch
RND round
SC single crochet
INC increase (work two STs into one, adds one)
DEC decrease (gather two STs to make one, subtracts one)



This pattern uses Lamb's Pride worsted or an equivalent yarn to make a hat for a medium (about 22 inch) head. It can easily be adapted for other sizes (*see notes along the way*). Since a hat intended for warmth should fit snugly, and also will become slightly larger when it's washed and blocked, it should be worked up slightly smaller than the head it is for. However, the ear-flaps and the ties will help it to stay on, so it doesn't need to be as tight as some other shapes of hat.

The gauge is 3.25 ST/inch on a size G hook.

(For other sizes and gauges, figure out how many rounds of increases it will take till the hat is a little bit smaller than the head for which it is intended.)

It is built from the top, in spiralling rounds (not stepped up), until starting the ear-flaps. They and the border are worked in back-and-forth rows.

Start with 6 ST in a ring. You will make 3 evenly distributed INCs in each RND, until there are 69 STs. Use a thinner yarn or a string in a contrasting color to mark off the RNDs. Lay it across the work when you have the ring of 6 STs, with most of it to one side or the other. Flop the long end back across when you come around to the same point. Because each ST sits to the right of the one it is worked into, the marker cord will make a slanting dotted line. Remove the marker string before you wash and block your hat (unless you like the way it looks).

For each round, work (INC, n-SC)*3, with n becoming one larger each time around, going from 1 to 21. The INCs always go into the first ST of the two forming the INC below.

(INC, 1-SC)*3	ends with 9 ST
(INC, 2-SC)*3	ends with 12 ST
....
(INC, 21-SC)*3	ends with 69 ST

To adjust for other sizes and/or gauges, remember that the hat wants to fit snugly, and that it will most likely become a little bit larger after blocking. Calculate how many STs you need, and use the sequence above to reach that number. It's not essential to finish with a whole RND (the number of STs must be a multiple of 3 for that to happen). If you don't end the increases at a whole RND, start another marker/RND counter cord as you begin the next section. Leaving off a RND will make a small hat, adding one a large. Four INC/RND, instead of three will make a less pointy one.

The next section just goes around and around, with no INCs (or DEC)s. Make a loop in your marker cord when you start the first RND with no INC.

This hat has 9 rows in this section. There should be enough for the hat to sit on the head just touching the top of the ears. (The row height will not change as much as the ST length with blocking, so you can check this while working.) The border will make four additional rows all the way around the hat, flaps and all, so the finished hat will come down that much further.

Now the ear-flaps. They will be built with back-and-forth rows, and need to be considerably closer together in the back than in the front.



To determine where to place them, first lay your hat flat, bottom edge up, with the right-hand crease lined up with the loop marking the end of the INC rows (A) at the right. This will be the middle of the back (B).

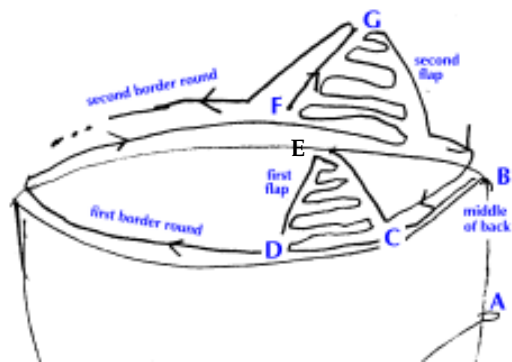
Count 9 ST from the right side. The next ST is the first one of the first ear-flap (C), mark it (with a bit of string or however you wish). Skip 8 ST, and mark the next (D). It will be the last ST of the same flap, making 9 altogether. Mark the other side the same way. You should have two 10-ST flaps marked out, 18 ST for the back, and 31 for the front, for a total of 69.

(For other sizes and gauges, distribute your STs more or less proportionately. If the flaps start with an even number of ST, they will end with two; if an odd number, with one – so that you will keep going around the hat in the same direction).

Make the 10 STs that start the flap in the same direction that you have been working (from C to D). Then turn the work, and go back the other way, skipping the first ST. This row will have 9 ST. Do no chain up, go to the end of the row, turn again. Each row will have one ST less than the previous one.

When you are down to two STs (E), work along the side of the triangle you have made (back to D). Continue to SC in the same direction as the rest of the hat, going around the front. Go to the far end of the other flap, turn and work back 8 ST. Continue as before: turn, skip the first ST, go on to the end of the row, turn again.

When you are down to two STs, work down along the side of the triangle, around the back of the hat, and up to the point of the first flap (E). Bind off.



You now have a nice row of SC all around, *except* for along the *first* side of the flap that you built *second*. Connect the yarn at the base of this side (F), SC up to the point (G). You will be going in the same direction as the rest of this first border row.

When you reach the point (G), turn and go all the way around in the other direction. Bind off. Do that once or twice more, alternating directions, starting at the base of a flap. To make the border lie flat, increase as needed at the points of the flaps, and decrease where they meet the body of the hat.

If you want ties, cut double-length strands and loop them through a few STs on the points of the flaps. You can crochet, braid or twist them. Different methods take up differently, you will have to experiment to determine the length you need. You can put a dangle, or pom-pom, or pom-pom attached to a dangle at the top of the hat too, if you wish.