

# CROCHETED MOEBIUS COWL

## MATERIALS:

- One skein hand-painted yarn, 80% Pima cotton/20% merino wool. Skein weight: 3.5 ounces (100 gms), length is 215 yards (197 m).

- Size F (3.75mm) crochet hook. Especially if you work tightly, you may wish to use a size G (4.25 mm). A blunt yarn/tapestry needle.

**ABBREVIATIONS:** CH (chain), SC (single crochet), LP (loop), DC (double crochet), HDC (half double crochet), YO (yarn over)

**GAUGE:** About 4 ST and 2 rows of DC per inch. But it really doesn't matter very much.

A moebius strip is a two-dimensional object that has only one surface. It is often represented in our 3-dimensional space by a strip of paper, twisted 180 degrees, with the ends taped together. Crochet (and knitting) can also be used to make the same shape.

This piece is worked in double crochet from a special elastic foundation chain, that becomes the center row of the cowl. This chain can be a little bit tricky, but once it is made, and the two ends connected, the rest is very simple. All you have to do is DC, the row changes happen automatically, building up alternating from one side of the center to the other. If you are using progressively dyed yarn, or several shades, the side-to-side row alternation will automatically balance the colors.

## To make the chain:

*(Please note: the following pictures are of a very short loop, in order to show all of it in detail. For a cowl, you will have many more stitches, but the process is identical.)*



CH 2 (counting slip knot as 1, don't pull it tight), leave about 4 inches of tail.



Insert hook into 1st CH,



YO, pull through 1 LP. 2 LPs on hook.



YO, pull through 1 LP again. 2 LPs on hook.



YO, pull through 2 LPs. 1 LP on hook.



Now insert your hook into the CH just before the bars, but on a narrow edge of the braid, to start the second ST. This will be easier to see after you have worked several ST.



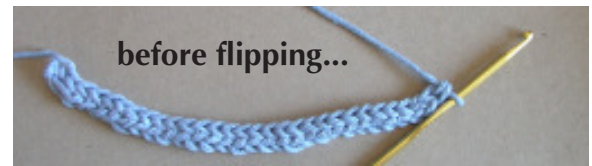
To continue making the foundation chain, insert your hook into the appropriate CH as above (*picture 6*), YO, pull through 1 LP. 2 LPs on hook. YO, pull through 1 LP. 2 LPs on hook. YO, pull through 2 LPs. 1 LP on hook.

Repeat this sequence until you have the length that you want. This cowl has a 100 ST foundation chain. Notice that both narrow edges of the chain have a row of ST you can work into.

Lay the chain flat on a table, with the working loop to the right. The top picture to the right shows the foundation chain in the orientation it was made, the tail at start end is up and the working loop is down.

Flip the chain vertically from where it was as you made the chain. Notice that when you do this, the tail at the start end, which was up, will now be down. The next picture down shows the chain flipped. (You might want to extract and re-insert your hook.)

Pick up the starting end, on the left, and twist it one half turn (180°). The tail is now up, as it was at the top of the page. Bring the ends together, being careful to neither add to or subtract twist. Be sure the tail stays up.



Insert the hook into the first chain of starting end. You will be working into the row of chain STs you both built and worked into making the foundation chain.

Leave the tail hanging for now; you will use it later.

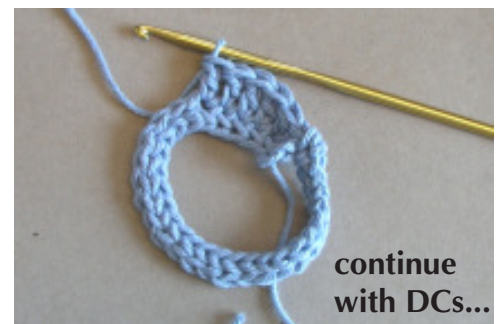
With the hook inserted into the first CH:

YO, pull through work. 2 LPs on hook. YO, pull through 2 LPs. 1 LP on hook. You have now worked a SC.



Check to be sure that you have a half-turn in your strip, no more and no less. It's a little bit tricky to see at first, and may take several tries, but once you have it, the technique is yours to use to make any crocheted Moebius item: neck gaiters, infinity scarves, wrist warmers with a twist.

Work on in DC.



When you get back around to where you started, you will continue on, now working into the other narrow edge of the foundation chain, where there are as of yet no DCs. Make one SC to connect to that edge, and continue on in DC.



You can line the end up with the start point, but you don't really have to. When the cowl is wide enough, or you are about to run out of yarn, taper off by making two half-double STs, then two SC, then two slip-ST. Bind off, and work the end in. Use the start tail to lace together any opening left at your starting point (now the at center of the width), then work it in. The pictured cowl has 16 rows. There was a little bit of extra yarn, but not enough to make a 17th row. The cowl is pretty worked in shells: 3 DC in one ST, skip 2 ST. 3 DC in the next, and so on.

Hand wash. You can lay it flat to dry, but it will set in folds at the twist. Change its position by moving the folds along several times as it dries. Or you can hang it from a stick, and move it along several times as it dries.