

CROCHETED SLOUCH BERET

This medium-sized hat is worked in the round in single crochet, and takes about 5 oz (240 yds) of Lamb's Pride or other slightly heavy worsted.

It can easily be adapted to other yarn, or other sizes, once you know the gauge and head size.

Gauge is about 3.5 ST/inch before washing and blocking, 3.25 ST/inch blocked.

Size G crochet hook, or whatever it takes for gauge.

You must be know how to single crochet (SC) in the round, starting from a ring, and how to increase (INC) and decrease (DEC). ST is stitch, RND is round.

Starting at the center of the top, this hat is made in four stages.

- A flat disc, that starts with a ring, and has 6 INC/RND, just enough to make it lie flat.
- Next a short tube, with no INCs or DECs.
- Then a section that curves inward, with DECs.
- Finally another tube, smaller, that forms the band, again with no INCs or DECs.

TOP DISC Start with a ring. In it make 6 SC. In each of them, make 2 SC (an INC). You now have 12 SC. For the disc to lie flat, you will need 6 INC/RND. Since the INCs are distributed evenly, and stacked, they outline six sections or gores. And since they are made in the 1st of the 2 ST that make the INC in the precious RND, the line of INCs swirls a little bit clockwise, making a subtle texture effect. Use a row marker. A different colored piece of yarn or string, laid back-and-forth across the work as each RND ends, works well.

SIDE Very simple, just SC around-and-around four times, with no INC or DEC. Keep using your row marker.

INWARD CURVE You will use the same pattern all the way. Keep repeating (DEC, 10 SC) for eight rounds. Use the row marker. When you have done the eight RNDs, you should have 61 ST. This is quite snug; it needs to be to keep the hat on. If you've gotten a ST or two off, you can fix this now by pulling out, or adding DEC sequences. Re-size the hat the same way.

The DEC will not stack and will only sometimes line up with the RNDs. There will be fewer of them each time around, since they always occur after ten SsC, and each round has fewer STs, there will be fewer DECs each time around.

And just as it takes 6 INC to make a circle starting from the center, it would take 6 DEC to make one starting from the outside rim and going in to the center. You are making more than that, which will gather your hat in.

A 4 ounce skein will have lasted up to this point, with not enough left to make the band. If you are going to change to another color, this is the time to do it.

BAND About 6 RNDs with no INCs or DECs, another tube. Various options to the right.



TOP DISC

Start with a ring, work 6 SC into it.

		STs at RND end
RND 1	(INC)*6	12
RND 2	(INC, 1 SC)*6	18
RND 3	(INC, 2 SC)*6	24

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RND 18	(INC, 17 SC)*6	114
RND 19	(INC, 18 SC)*6	120

Each RND has six sections.

Each section starts with an INC, and has one more SC between INCs each time around.

SIDE – No INC or DEC

Four RNDs	all SC	120
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INWARD CURVE – eight RNDs, repeating (DEC, 10 SC) 61

BAND – no INC or DEC
6 RNDs (or more or less)

BAND OPTIONS

- Plain SC, worked around thin round elastic if you like.
- A “faux” ribbing made by alternating RNDs of SC just into the front loop, just into the back loop. If you wish, lay thin round elastic along the row, and work your SC around it.
- RNDs of “shallow” SC, worked around the “posts”. The rows are “shallower” (more per inch), so you may want more. This kind of band may roll, block the curl out if you wish.
- Pick up the ST with a knitting needle and knit a ribbing.