Crochet Balaclava Pattern

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A crochet balaclava that covers the head, ears, neck and chin and leaves a neat opening for the face. It is worked top down in half double crochet: a flat circle for the crown, straight rounds to the forehead, rows around the face opening, then rounds again for the neck with a ribbed edge at the bottom.

It fits a head of about 21 to 23 in / 53 to 58 cm, in worsted yarn.



The balaclava in charcoal worsted yarn.

Pattern at a glance

- **Skill level:** intermediate beginner (hdc in joined rounds and rows, front and back post double crochet)
- **Size:** adult, head 21–23 in / 53–58 cm; hood 19.7 in / 50 cm around before stretching, about 14.8 in / 38 cm from the top of the head to the bottom of the neck
- **Face opening:** about 4.9 in / 13 cm wide and 4.8 in / 12 cm tall
- **Yarn:** worsted (aran / 4) acrylic or wool blend, about 188 yd / 172 m
- **Hook:** 5 mm (US H/8)
- **Gauge:** 13 hdc x 10 rounds = 4 in / 10 cm
- **Time:** about 4 to 5 hours

Abbreviations (US terms)

- **MR** magic ring · **ch** chain · **sl st** slip stitch · **sc** single crochet · **hdc** half double crochet · **hdc inc** 2 hdc in one stitch · **fpdc / bpdc** front / back post double crochet · **FO** fasten off

Before you start

- Start every hdc round with ch 1 (it does not count) and join with a sl st to the first hdc. In the face rows the ch 1 is the turning chain and does not count either.
- Check the gauge: the crown after round 8 should be about 6.25 in / 16 cm across. If it is bigger, go down half a hook size.

• Try it on after the hood rounds. The edge of round 15 should sit just above your eyebrows; add or remove a round if needed.

The pattern

Hood

Color: start with A (charcoal).

The crown is a flat circle that grows by 8 stitches a round.

- ☐ **Rnd 1:** 8 hdc in MR. (8)
- ☐ **Rnd 2:** Hdc inc ×8. (16)
- ☐ **Rnd 3:** (hdc, hdc inc) ×8. (24)
- ☐ **Rnd 4:** Hdc, hdc inc, (2 hdc, hdc inc) ×7, hdc. (32)
- ☐ **Rnd 5:** (3 hdc, hdc inc) ×8. (40)
- ☐ **Rnd 6:** 2 hdc, hdc inc, (4 hdc, hdc inc) ×7, 2 hdc. (48)
- ☐ **Rnd 7:** (5 hdc, hdc inc) ×8. (56)
- ☐ **Rnd 8:** 3 hdc, hdc inc, (6 hdc, hdc inc) ×7, 3 hdc. (64)
- ☐ **Rnds 9–15:** Hdc around. (64)

Face Opening

Color: start with A (charcoal).

Now work in rows: 48 stitches around the sides and back, leaving 16 at the front for the forehead.

- ☐ **Row 1:** 48 hdc, leave 16 unworked. (48)
- ☐ **Rows 2–12:** Ch 1 turn, hdc across. (48)

Finish: The 16 unworked sts are the top of the face opening; center them over the forehead.



Laid flat: hood, face opening and ribbed neck.

Neck

Color: start with A (charcoal).

Join back into a round with a 16-chain under the chin.

- ☐ **Rnd 1:** 48 hdc, ch 16. (64)
- ☐ **Rnds 2–4:** Hdc around. (64)
- ☐ **Rnds 5–10:** (fpdc, bpdc) ×32. (64)

Finish: R1 joins the work back into a round: hdc across, ch 16 and sl st to the first hdc; the 16 ch are the chin edge; FO after R10.

Face Edging

Color: start with A (charcoal).

Join the yarn at the chin chain and work around the face opening.

- [ ] **Rnd 1:** Sc around. (80)
- [ ] **Rnd 2:** (8 sc, dec) ×8. (72)

Finish: Join at the chin; R1 has 1 sc in each of the 16 chin ch, 2 sc in each of the 12 row ends up one side, 1 sc in each of the 16 forehead sts and 2 sc in each of the 12 row ends down the other side; sl st and FO after R2.

Tips

- **Snugger opening:** work R2 of the edging as (6 sc, dec) x10 for 70 stitches; the edge pulls in more around the face.
- **Longer neck:** each extra rib round adds about 0.4 in / 1 cm. It needs about 6 yd / 5 m more yarn per round.
- **Itchy yarn?** Use a soft acrylic or a merino blend: the face edge sits right on your skin.

FAQ

Can I wear it as a hood with the face opening pulled down?

Yes. Pull the opening down under the chin and the balaclava works as a snug hood with a neck warmer.

How do I wash it?

Follow the yarn band. Most acrylics can go in a laundry bag on a gentle cycle; wool blends are safer washed by hand and dried flat so the neck does not stretch.

More winter wear: the ribbed beanie in four sizes, the twisted headband and the crochet gloves.