

**Granite Stitch Beret  
and Mini-design lesson.**  
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**Introduction:**

Teddy is modeling my hat, which is designed to fit an adult woman. The beret is crocheted using granite stitch. This stitch make a nice drapable fabric, which I prefer to using all single crochet. As an added bonus, I find it faster to work too!

I wrote this pattern as a tutorial for beginning knitters. You can find similar patterns on the web, but they will contain fewer words. In fact, the pattern could be written on less than one page. I tried to include specific instructions *when you need them* in the pattern.

I am also trying to teach beginning knitters to customize patterns for their heads. I don't believe "one size fits all" heads. In fact, half my knitting and crochet students say they can never find hats that fit because their heads are larger or smaller than the "one size" that fits "everybody".

First, if your head is anywhere between 20-24" this hat will fit. I describe how to customize at the end of the pattern.

To customize this pattern for a much larger or smaller head size, you will want to read how to customize the pattern. Directions are provided at the end.

**Level: Beginner.**

**Materials:**

- 1 skein Lion Brand Cotton Ease 3.5 ounces, 207 yds.
- Size G (6 mm ) crochet hook
- Bits of contrast color yarn.

**Skills:** single crochet (sc), chain stitch (ch), reducing sc, increasing stitches, crab stitch (a.k.a. reverse sc.)

**Size:** Adult woman 22" head. Beret measures 12" across.

**Gauge:** Unimportant. Really. Mine is about 5 rounds = 2". Just decide if you like the way the fabric looks after the first few rounds.

**Stitch Patterns:** Granite stitch, sc, crab stitch.

**Notes:**

While working granite stitch, always form stitches in the chain spaces of the row below. The chain spaces are the *larger* holes!

The hat is worked in 5 curved "wedges". It may be convenient to know this when you are instructed to do something, and then repeat it! (You might want to read ahead

and look at Figure 2 to see the 5 “wedges”.)

To the beginning of a row, you may wish to pull a strand of contrast yarn through the hole in the chain loop, and later loop it under the ch2's as you begin each round. This helps you “see” the end of each round. (I always do this when crocheting in the round. *Always.*)

Some numbers in my instructions are underlined. This indicates that their values change each each round. I underline them to help you learn the meaning of instructions like “repeating the established pattern.”

Toward the end of the pattern, some blank spaces are provided. These blank spaces can be used if you follow the “design your own” instructions and calculate your own values.

### **Instructions:**

Foundation: Chain three. Slip Stitch into first chain to close.

Concept: Brackets ( ) are used to indicate some operation is some sort of complete unit worked into one “hole”. The \*’s are used to indicate something is going to be repeated over a bunch of stitches in the round below. You will notice the (sc,ch) operation is a group.

Round 1: Ch2. Then, \*(sc, ch) into chain circle\* 4 times. Slip stitch into ch2 to close. [5 sc-ch pairs; the first ch2 always counts as an (sc, ch) pair.]

Concept for round 2: On the next round, you will work *two* (sc, ch) groups into *every* chain space in the round below. If you think of the “ch2” as a (sc,ch) pair, you will see there are 10 (sc,ch) pairs.

Round 2: Ch2, sc, ch chain space *containing* the turning chain. \*(sc, ch) *twice* into next ch space \* 4 times. Sl. st into ch2 to close. [10 sc-ch pairs]

Concept for round 3: On the next round,

you will work 1 (sc, ch) group in one chain space, followed by *two* (sc, ch) groups into *one* chain space. If you think of the “ch2” as a (sc,ch) pair, you will see there are 5 groups of 3 (sc,ch) pairs when you complete the next round.

Round 3: Ch2, (sc,ch) *twice* into *next* ch space. Then \*(sc, ch) into next 1 ch space, (sc, ch) *twice* into next ch space, repeat from \* 4 times. Slip stitch closed. [15 (sc, ch) pairs]

Concept for round 4: If you think of the “ch2” as an (sc, ch) pair, you will see there are 5 groups of 4 (sc,ch) pairs when you complete the next round.

Round 4: Ch2, \*(sc, ch) into next ch space 1 time, (sc, ch) *twice* into next ch space. Then \*(sc, ch) into next 2 ch spaces, (sc, ch) *twice* into next ch1 space \* 4 times. Slip stitch closed. [20 (sc, ch) pairs]

Round 5: Ch2, \*(sc, ch) into next ch1 space \* 2 times, (sc,ch) *twice* into next ch1 space. Then \*(sc, ch into next 3 ch1 spaces (sc, ch) *twice* into next ch1 space \* 4 times. Slip stitch closed. [25 sc-ch pairs]

Continue in established pattern, increasing 5 (sc, ch) pairs every round. To put this another way: each of the 5 “regions” has one more stitch per round. (You can look at Figure 2 to see the regions, which are sort of curved wedges.)

### *Comments:*

The basic stitch pattern you are working is called granite stitch in one of my crochet references. It is called seed stitch in another book!

You are increasing in the chain space *after* the increase in the round below. Figure 1 illustrates the increases and the granite stitch pattern fabric.

Note that generally, there is only 1 stitch in each chain space. You can also see two stitches in some of the chain spaces. Notice that increases are worked in the stitch to the left, or after, of the increase from

the previous row. If you accidentally work the increases between the increases of the previous round, you'll form a very distinct pentagon!



Figure 1: Detail of granite stitch with increases.

*Back to instructions:*

Approximately every 8 rows, lay the fabric flat on the table. The piece should lie fairly flat and look sort of like the one illustrated in figure 2. If the edges ruffle or wave, work one round *without increasing* any stitches. To do this, just (sc,ch) in *every* space and never (sc,ch) twice in one space.

I worked without increasing approximately once every 10 rounds. You may or may not need to do so.

Examine the work. Because you are increasing 5 (sc, ch) pairs per round, there are five little bulges of "points" on the outside of the circle.

Notice that the increases form spirals around the hat. That orange contrast yarn is a piece of contrast yarn I looped under the ch 2 at the beginning of every round. It helps me notice the beginning of a round.

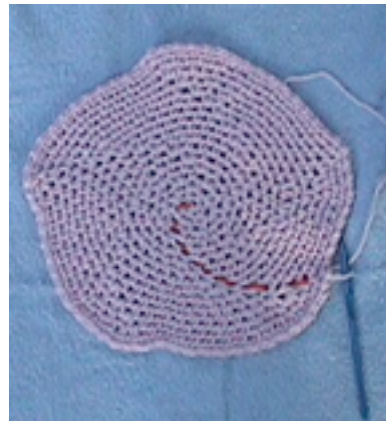


Figure 2: Distorted circle.

From now on, the directions include some spaces and blanks. If you are replicating my hat exactly, cross out the optional items. For example, in the paragraph that follows this one, cross out the (D=\_\_\_). If you are making a hat for a different size head, cross out the values in bold, and replace them as described later in the "design your own hat" instructions.

Work until circle measures about **12"** (D=\_\_\_) across. The increasing region, or top of the hat, is completed.

Mark this row with a piece of contrast yarn. To do this, just get a piece of scrap yarn and pull it around a stitch you've already formed and knot it. (You'll remove this later.)

Work without increasing stitches until the work measure **2"** (B=\_\_\_) from the contrast yarn marker. To work without increasing stitches, just (sc,ch) into *every* space.

If you are keeping track of rounds, and use Lion Brand cotton ease, this should be about 5 rounds. The edges of the hat will begin to curl up.

Next, decrease stitches rapidly as follows:

Round 1: Ch1, sc into every ch space slip stitch to close round. (The chain between sc's are gone.)

Round 2: ch1 \*work reducing sc, sc in next

stitch\* repeat around hat. Slip stitch closed. (There are 2 stitch "tops" for ever 2 in the previous round.)

Comment: To work a reducing sc, begin as though you are going to work a normal sc, inserting hook into the top of the stitch in the round below and draw up a strand of yarn. Then, *don't finish the sc*. Instead, insert the hook into the top of the *next* stitch in the round below.

You now have three strands on the hook as illustrated in figure 3. Yarn over and draw through all three strands. This reduces a stitch.



Figure 3: Single Crochet Decrease.

Back to instructions:

Try the hat on.

*If the hat is too tight:*

Rip the last row. Work fewer reducing sc's and more normal sc's.

Alternate round: ch1 \*reducing sc, sc 2 times\* repeat around. Slip stitch closed. Try the hat on, it should be loose!

*If the hat is too loose:* That's good!

Continue work on the slightly loose hat.

You will now estimate how many stitches to reduce on the next round. If you hate arithmetic, skip the next few calculations, and stick the number "7" into the instruction for round 3.

----- Optional Calculation -----  
Estimating the number of stitches to reduce.

Measure around the unfinished edge of the hat opening. (That is, measure around the big hole you stuck your head in to try the hat on.)

Write that number down here \_\_\_\_\_. (Mine measured 25".)

Next measure around your head to determine your head size. Write that number down here \_\_\_\_\_. (My head measures 22".)

Subtract \_\_\_\_\_. (I got  $25 - 22 = 3$ )

Now, divide the number you just got by the current size of the unfinished edge, then round down. Write the calculated value here. \_\_\_\_\_ (I divided 25" by 3, then rounded down to get 8.)

Subtract 1 from that number and write it down here: \_\_\_\_\_. (I got  $8 - 1 = 7$ ).

You will need to insert this *final* number in the blank contained in the following instruction for round 3. (I inserted 7 into the instructions. If you got frustrated with the math, just stich "7" in the instruction for round 3 that follows.)

-----End of calculation-----

Round 3: ch1, \*sc \_\_\_\_\_ times, 1 reducing sc\* repeat to the end of the round. Slip stitch closed.

(Don't worry if number of stitches doesn't work out perfectly near the end of the round. They probably won't. Just fudge and slip stitch closed when you reach the end of the round.)

Try the hat on again. It should fit fairly comfortably but maybe a little loose. The next round will tighten it very slightly.

If the hat is too tight rip round 3 and rework *increasing* the number of stitches between the reducing sc's. (You'll need to use your judgement. If the hat was just a little tight, I'd increase the "7" to "8"! If it were really,

really, really tight, I'd increase the "7" to "10")

If the hat is too loose, you don't need to rip. Just modify the instruction for the following round, adding in reductions. To figure out how often to reduce, redo the calculation you did for round 3, or just reduce 1 sc every 10 sc's.

Round 4: Work one round of sc without decreasing.

Option: If you want, you can work extra rounds of sc now before working the final round. How do you decide? Try on the hat, and see if you'd like a wider brim. (This is your hat, right?) When the brim is deep enough, work the final round. It's decorative.

Final round: Work crab stitch (i.e. reverse sc) around the edge.

Crab stitch is worked like sc except backwards. With loop on hook, insert hook in the top of the stitch *behind* the hook. Pull up a loop. Yarn over, draw through loops on hook.

Tidy edges, weave in loose ends. Remove all contrast yarn.

Optional: stretch the hat around a plate to open up the stitches. Steam to set stitches.

### Design lesson:

If you don't mind arithmetic, you can modify this pattern for a child or a doll. Even without arithmetic, you can make the same hat using a different yarn.

Regardless of yarn or size, the method of working the pattern is exactly the same except for a few instructions!

To customize for a different head size. Measure the intended wearers head size.  $H = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ . (My head measured  $H=22$ )

Divide this number, H by 1.8. and insert it in the blank to the left.  $D = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ . (I divided 22" by 1.8 and got 12.2". I rounded this

down to  $D=12$ .)

The increases to create the top of the beret are complete when the measures "D".

Read the instructions and find the bold **12"**, followed closely by a blank that says  $D = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ . Cross out the 12" and insert the value you just calculated for D.

Now, you'll want to change the value of "B" in the directions. Divide your head size, H, by 11. Round the value and write that here:  $B = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$ . (I divided 22" /11 and got 2").

When you are knitting, if B ends up requiring less than one row, crochet at least 1 non-increasing row, then follow with the decrease row as described.

That's the only change if you want to make the hat for a different size head.

Suppose you want to make the hat out of a different yarn?

Guess what? You don't need to change the directions *at all!* For a 22" head, follow the directions for the first 5 rounds, and increase stitches until the hat measures 12". The only difference will be the number or rounds you work before you reach 12" in diameter. But we're not keeping track of rounds, so the instructions are the same.

Now, for the most difficult change of all.

Suppose you decide to make the hat for a smaller head *and* use a thicker yarn? Follow the directions to calculate "D" and "B".

Now, start making the hat. If you picked a very thick yarn and a very small head, the top of the hat may be big enough before round 5 where it tells you to start repeating the pattern as established. Well, don't worry. Just stop increasing when the hat diameter measures "D". Then follow the rest of the directions.

Wear your hat proudly.