

## Baby Hat Pattern by Carlene Paquette

**Stitches used:** Single crochet, half double crochet, half double decrease (which is yarn over, yarn up in stitch one, yarn over, yarn up in stitch 2, then yarn over and through all loops on the hook)

**Foundation:** Chain 11, turn.

Row 1: Skip first stitch and single crochet into each stitch along the row (10 sts total). Chain 1 and turn.

Row 2: Single crochet into the back loop only of each stitch along the row. Chain 1 and turn.

Repeat Row 2, this will make the brim section of the hat. Each pair of rows makes one ribbed section of the brim. I usually make about 35 ribs in my hats. But the length you do will depend on how big of a hat, thickness of yarn, etc. You can check the approximate size of your hat by folding your brim in half.

When you have completed the brim your work should look as follows:

Tail ----- Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim - Chain on hook  
Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim  
Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim  
Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim  
Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim  
Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim Brim

Note: Having the tail at the 'top' of the brim is helpful since it makes sewing in the tail much easier.

On the last row of the brim, instead of chaining 1 and turning (as done before) chain 2 and then using half double crochet, begin crocheting along the top/side of the brim until you reach the end of the row where the tail is. There should be one stitch for each row. (Note: The original pattern I used called for the whole hat to be done in single crochet. I usually use half double crochet for the top portion of the hat. So this row and all subsequent rows would be done in half double crochet.) Each row ends with a chain 2 and turn.

Crochet as many rows as required until the brim and the first part of the top section of the hat are equal size. I check this by folding the work over occasionally to check how tall the top portion of the hat is. (Note: For larger hats, I sometimes crochet 1 row beyond the height of the brim.)

Initial decrease row (do 2 of these): Crochet 2 stitches of half double crochet, then 1 decrease stitch, repeating this pattern along the row. (Note: As indicated,

repeat this decrease pattern for the next row as well. This will begin shaping the bowl of the hat.)

Next row: Crochet one row of straight half double crochet all the way across.

Tighter decrease row: Crochet 1 stitch of half double crochet, then 1 decrease stitch, repeating this pattern along the row.

Final decrease row: Using single crochet, do decrease stitches all the way across the row. The final row should have between 7 and 10 stitches.

Leave a long tail.

### **Finishing:**

Begin with the short tail from where you started the hat. Sew that tail in along the brim/hat join seam. Next, with the long tail, do a loop stitch through each of the stitches in the top row of the hat and pull gently, this will close up the top of the hat. Holding the hat folded flat so that the seams of the brim line up evenly, sew the hat closed and thread the tail back through the seam. Trim yarn. Flip the hat inside out so that the stitched seam for the bowl section of the hat is on the inside.

### **Variations:**

1. After the hat is completed and stitched together, crochet a contrasting colour around the brim of the hat using single crochet and sew in the tails.
2. Complete the brim and first row of the hat in one colour, and the top/bowl section of the hat in another colour. Remember to leave a long enough tail of the brim colour to sew up the brim seam with the tail created when you switch from the brim colour to the top/hat colour. This will help the brim seam blend in with the rest of the ribs on the hat.
3. For larger hats, I sometimes create the brim using a longer row and half double crochet in the back loops, instead of single crochet. When you are doing that, the brim of the hat is not as stretchy. As well, when you crochet on the first row of the top of the hat there needs to be 3 stitches added for each Rib, since 2 rows of half double crochet are equivalent to approximately 3 rows of single crochet.