

Woolly Owl Hat

a design for crochet by Kat Goldin



A little hat for your little birdie

This pattern can be completed in a bulky

OR

a worsted/aran weight yarn.

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Basic Construction

This hat is made as a tube, then closed across the top of the tube. Earflaps are made as long triangles on each bottom 'corner' of the tube. Eyes are basic flat circles and the beak is a simple triangle that are all sewn on to the front of the hat.

Supplies

› For Hat Body

- Patons Shadow Tweed (or other bulky weight wool)

OR

- Cascade 220 (or other worsted (aran) weight yarn)

› For Eyes, Edging and Beak:

- Scraps of Cascade 220 in black, grey and yellow

OR

- Other worsted (aran) weight yarn

› Hooks

- 5.5mm/I hook
- 5/H mm hook

Gauge

Bulky: 6 HDCs and 4.5 rows = 2" square

Worsted/Aran: 7 HDCs and 5 rows = 2" square

Stitches and Abbreviations

Ch = chain

HDC = Half Double Crochet (or half treble in UK terms)

SC = Single Crochet (or UK double)

SlSt = Slip Stitch

Instructions for magic loop at the back of this pattern

Sizes (Use colour coding in design as below)

Black = 0 - 6 months to fit head sizes 13- 15 inches

Red = 6 - 12 months to fit head sizes 16-19 inches

Purple = 1 - 3 years to fit head sizes 18 - 21 inches

Green = 4 - 7 years to fit head sizes 20- 22 inches

Hat Main Body (BULKY)

Using: Main body yarn and 5.5mm hook

Foundation: With the bulky wool for the main body of the hat and using a 5.5mm hook, chain **43** (**45, 50, 56**). Join, ensuring that the chain is not twisted.

Round 1: Ch 3. Working into just one side of the foundation chain, HDC **43** (**45, 50, 56**). Join.

Round 2 to end: Working in both loops of the V of previous round, HDC until hat measures **4** (**4.5, 5.5, 6.5**) inches.

For this hat, I would recommend just crocheting in a spiral. A seam using such bulky yarn on a small hat (on a small head) is quite visible. Also the seam will run up the side of the hat, so unless you can seam each round meticulously, I would spiral. The 'jagged' edge that finishes at the bottom will be covered by the ear flaps. Use a place marker to keep track of the start of the round.

Finish off the round with a SlSt into the first stitch of the round. Break the yarn.

Lay hat flat, with the tail from the original chain forming one corner, wrong sides together.

Crochet the top of the hat closed, by SC into the other loop of the foundation chain, leaving tails of 6 inches at either end.

Earflaps (BULKY) (Make 2)

Using: Main body yarn and 5.5mm hook

Note: The earflaps are two triangles crocheted onto the bottom of the main hat body, evenly straddling the bottom 'corners' of the hat.

With the hat laying flat, find the bottom corner stitch. Right side facing, count **7** (**7, 8, 8**) stitches around the back of the hat. Join the yarn into this stitch, chain 2.

HDC **13** (**13, 15, 15**) stitches.

(Its good to check and make sure at this stage that your ear flap edges line up and are centred over that middle stitch)

At the end of the row, turn the hat, chain 2 and HDC back across the earflap with **13** (**13, 15, 15**) HDC

For each following row you are going to reduce the earflap by one stitch, forming a long triangle. For symmetry, its best to reduce at the beginning of each row by skipping the chain 2.

Continue until you are left with only one stitch, break the yarn, leaving an 8 inch tail. Pull yarn through the final loop.

Repeat for other earflap, ensuring you join the yarn and start the first earflap row on the 'right' or outward side of the hat facing you.

Hat Main Body (WORSTED/ARAN)

Using: Main Body Yarn and 5mm hook

Foundation: With the worsted wool for the main body of the hat and using a 5 mm hook, chain **47 (54, 60, 66)**. Join, ensuring that the chain is not twisted.

Round 1: Ch3, Working into just one side of the foundation chain, HDC **47 (54, 60, 66)**. Join.

Round 2 to end: Working in both loops of the V of previous round, HDC until hat measures **4 (4.5, 5.5, 6.5)** inches.

For this hat, I would recommend just crocheting in a spiral. A seam using such bulky yarn on a small hat (on a small head) is quite visible. Also the seam will run up the side of the hat, so unless you can seam each round meticulously, I would spiral. The 'jagged' edge that finishes at the bottom will be covered by the ear flaps. Use a place marker to keep track of the start of the round.

Finish off the round with a SlSt into the first stitch of the round. Break the yarn.

Lay hat flat, with the tail from the original chain forming one corner, wrong sides together.

Crochet the top of the hat closed, by SC into the other loop of the foundation chain, leaving tails of 6 inches at either end.

Earflaps (WORSTED/ARAN) (Make 2)

Using: Main Body Yarn and 5mm Hook

Note: The earflaps are two triangles crocheted onto the bottom of the main hat body, evenly straddling the bottom 'corners' of the hat.

With the hat laying flat, find the bottom corner stitch. Count **8 (8, 9, 9)** stitches around the back of the hat. With right side facing you, join the yarn into this stitch, chain 2.

HDC **15 (15, 17, 17)** stitches.

(Its good to check and make sure at this stage that your ear flap edges line up and are centred over the middle stitch)

At the end of the row, turn the hat, chain 2 and HDC back across the earflap with **15 (15, 17, 17)** HDC

For each following row you are going to reduce the earflap by one stitch, forming a long triangle. For symmetry, its best to reduce at the beginning of each row by skipping the chain 2.

Continue until you are left with only one stitch, break the yarn, leaving an 8 inch tail, pull yarn through the final loop.

Repeat for other earflap, ensuring you join the yarn and start the first earflap row on the 'right' or outward side of the hat facing you.

The following pattern pieces apply to both the bulky and worsted hat designs:

Contrasting Trim

Using: Contrast yarn and 5mm hook

In the bottom of the earflap you just finished, leaving another 8in tail, join the yarn and SC all around the edges of the earflaps and bottom of the hats.

Earflap Tails (One for each earflap)

Cut 6x12in long pieces of wool in your main body and contrasting colours. Thread them through the bottom point of the earflap in between the stitches and fold them in half.

Take one of your longer pieces of yarn left over from making the trim and secure the tails tightly by wrapping the yarn around the rest of the tails and then tying the yarn off. Ensure the yarn used to wrap the tails is securely tucked underneath the wrap and pointing down.

Divide tails into 3 parts and braid tails to desired length, then wrap and tie the bottom as you did the top. Trim tails for even length.

Top Tassels (Repeat once for each side)

Cut 6-8 strips of yarn 6 inches in length. Using a crochet hook, thread the tassels through the top corner of the hat.

Using one of the longer tails from closing the top of the hat, wrap and tie the tassels very tightly. Trim ends to desired length.

Eyes (Make 2)

Using: 5mm crochet hook and the black Aran/Worsted weight yarn. Do not count the chain as a stitch in these rounds.

Round 1: Using a magic loop, chain 2 and make 8 HDC into the loop. Join into the 2nd stitch of the chain 2. Pull loop tight to close the bottom of the stitches. (8)

Round 2: Break yarn and switch to grey. Tie ends of grey and black together, very close to the loop still remaining on your hook. You can hide the tails of the black and grey by holding them along the top of the previous round, encasing them in the new stitches.

Chain 2. * 2 HDC into each stitch * repeat from * around. Join. (16)

Round 3: Chain 2, * SC 1, 2SC into the next * repeat from * around. Join. (24)

Round 4: Chain 2, * SC2, 2SC into the next * repeat to the end of round. Join. (32)

For 0-6month and 6-12 month sizes: Break yarn and pull through, leaving a 14in tail

For 1-3 year and 4-7 year sizes: Round 5: Chain 2, * SC3, 2SC into next * repeat from * around. Join. (40) Break yarn and pull through, leaving a 14in tail

Beak

Using: 5mm Crochet Hook and Yellow Worsted Weight Yarn

For all sizes: Chain 6.

Row 1: SC into second loop from hook to end of row. Turn.

Row 2 to end: repeat row one until you have 1 stitch left on hook.

To finish off beak, SC around the entire perimeter of the beak, with 3SC into each of the 3 corners. Break yarn leaving a 12in tail.

Sewing Up

Use photos for placement. But I usually centre the beak very low on the hat and then place the eyes low and to either side of the beak. Sew using back stitch, just along the the outer edge.

Weave in ends. Its important to block this hat as the earflaps tend to curl ever so slightly.

Magic Loop

- › Make a loop with the yarn. Ensure that the tail of the yarn is behind and pointing to the left.
- › Pinch the bottom of the loop. Put your hook through the loop and place yarn over the hook as you would normally to make a stitch. Pull through.
- › Chain 2 more to secure.
- › Continue as normal, making stitches into the bottom loop.
- › When desired number of stitches in complete, join round.
- › Pull tail tightly to close the hole at the bottom of your stitches. Its important that this tail is securely tied when sewing in the ends so that the hole doesn't open again.

For a variety of other finished crochet designs (including Woolly Owls) and other handmade items, please check out my etsy shop at <http://kathryngoldin.etsy.com>