

Military Hat – Knit or Crocheted

Adapted from www.operationshoebox.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/3Cap-instructions.pdf



Knit or crochet a brimless hat for a member of our armed forces. These hats are donated to Operation Shoebox, who will enclose them in care packages (“shoe boxes”) sent to troops deployed overseas and returning home. See www.operationshoebox.com for more information.

PATTERN NOTES

- Although there are no real restrictions for color, it is generally preferred to have the hats knit or crocheted with darker or muted colors, including browns, grays, black, navy, dark greens, or “camo”. An alternative would be to knit the bottom 2” of the hat in a dark color, and then the top of the hat can be done in any color (including a bright color!). It is recommended to avoid making hats in red, white, & blue, as that is not desirable for troops in some situations.
- 100% wool or other animal fibers are preferred as they offer greater warmth, but blends are also acceptable, as are acrylics and blends.
- Multiple yarns may be stranded to get a worsted weight, such as the following combos: 2 strands sportweight, 1 strand DK + 1 strand fingering, 2 strands fingering + 1 strand sportweight.
- These hats are brimless, so they may be worn under a helmet if necessary.
- The crocheted hat is worked in the round; the knit hat may be knit flat or in the round – instructions are provided for each version.

Materials

Sizes: one size

Yarn

Worsted weight, 100 yds (knit hat) – 150 yds (crocheted hat); see *Pattern Notes* for color preferences. Lighter-weight yarns may be stranded; see *Pattern Notes*.

Needles

Knit hat: US-8/5.0mm (may be straight or 16” circular; need dpns if worked in the round. See *Pattern Notes*)

Crochet hat: US-8/H/5.0mm hook

Feel free to use whatever size needle or hook gives a good “hat fabric”

Gauge

Gauge is not critical

Abbreviations (knit): K: knit; **K2tog:** knit 2 sts together; **P:** purl; **Sts:** stitches; **P2tog:** purl 2 sts together; **st(s):** stitch(es); [...] repeat enclosed instructions as specified.

Abbreviations (crochet – American terms): **dc:** double crochet; **ch:** chain; **hdc:** half-double crochet; **sc:** single crochet; **sl st:** slip stitch; [...] repeat enclosed instructions as specified.



KNIT HAT DIRECTIONS

Flat Construction

Main Body

Cast on 76 sts.

[K2, p2] for each entire row until hat is 6.5" from cast-on edge.

Crown Shaping

Shaping Row 1: [K2tog, p2tog] to end of row. —38 sts

Shaping Row 2: [k1, p1] to end of row.

Shaping Row 3: K2tog to end of row. —19 sts

Shaping Row 4: P to end of row.

Shaping Row 5: K2tog to last st, k1.—10 sts

Finishing

Thread yarn through remaining sts and pull tight.

Sew the back seam and weave in loose ends.

Circular (Round) Construction

Main Body

Cast on 76 sts. Join to knit in the round and mark the beginning of the round.

[K2, p2] for each entire round until hat is 6.5" from cast-on edge.

Crown Shaping

Shaping Round 1: [K2tog, p2tog] to end of round. —38 sts

Shaping Round 2: [k1, p1] to end of round.

Shaping Round 3: K2tog to end of round. —19 sts

Shaping Round 4: K to end of round.

Shaping Round 5: K2tog to last st, k1.—10 sts

Finishing

Thread yarn through remaining sts and pull tight.

Secure ends inside hat. Weave in loose ends.

CROCHET HAT DIRECTIONS

Ch 4; close for a ring.

Crown Shaping

Round 1: Ch 1 (counts as one sc); 11 st in ring; sl st in top of ch.—12 sc

Round 2: Ch 1; sc 1 at base of ch; sc 2 times in each st around; sl st in top of ch.—24 sc

Round 3: Ch 1; sc 1 at base of ch, sc 1 in next st; [sc 2 times in next st, sc 1] around; sl st in top of ch.—36 sc

Round 4: Repeat Round 3 — approx. 57 sc [Note: st count for Rounds 4 & 5 is not critical.]

Round 5: Ch 1; sc 1 at base of ch, sc 1 in each of

next 5 sts; [sc 2 times in next st, sc 5] around; sl st in top of ch.—approx. 83 sc

Hat Body

Round 6: Ch 1; sc in each st; sl st in top of ch. Mark this round for measurement.

Repeat Round 6 until hat is 6.5" long from Round 6.

Finishing Round: Ch 1; sc to end of end of round; sl st in top of ch. *Variation: If desired, work the "crab stitch" (also known as "reverse single crochet") for this final round.*

Cut yarn and pull through last loop to finish off.

Weave in loose ends.

Note for the crochet hat: This hat can also be successfully worked in hdc (half double crochet) if you like. The only change to the directions might be to eliminate Round 5 of the crown shaping; in other words, start the hat body whenever you feel the crown is sufficiently large enough.