

Starry Swirls Stocking Cap

by Cynthia Miller



Materials

I hook (for main hat)
H hook (for brim)
F hook (for swirls)
Light worsted weight yarn (less than 150 yards)
DK or worsted weight yarn (less than 20 yards, for embellishments)
For the hat in the photo, I used Caron Simply Soft in Celestial for the main hat, and Premier Angel for the swirls.

Abbreviations

ch - chain
ss - slip stitch
st - stitch
dc - double crochet
sc - single crochet
blo - back loop only

Size

Newborn - about 12 inch circumference,
20 inches long

Gauge

14 stitches and 7 rows/4 inches

Pattern

Note: ch 1 at beginning does not count as a stitch

ch 4, ss in first st to join

Row 1: ch 1, 7 dc in ring, working over tail, ss to first st to join, pull tail to close hole (7 st)

Row 2: ch 1, dc around, ss to first st to join (7 st)

Row 3: ch1, dc, 2 dc next st, dc next 2 st, 2 dc next st, dc next st, 2 dc in last st, ss to first st to join (10 st)

Row 4: ch 1, *dc next 2 st, 2 dc next st, repeat from *, dc in last st, ss to first st to join (13 st)

Row 5: ch 1, dc around, ss in first st to join (13 st)

Row 6: repeat Row 5

Row 7: repeat Row 6

Row 8: ch 1, 2 dc in first st, * dc next 2 st, 2 dc next st, repeat from *, ss in first st to join (18 st)

Row 9: ch 1, dc around, ss in first st to join (18 st)

Row 10: Repeat Row 9

Row 11: Repeat Row 9

Row 12: ch 1, * dc next 2 st, 2 dc next st, repeat from *, ss to first st to join (24 st)

Pattern

Row 12: ch 1, * dc next 2 st, 2 dc next st, repeat from *, ss to first st to join (24 st)

Row 13: ch 1, dc around, ss in first st to join (24 st)

Row 14: Repeat Row 13

Row 15: Repeat Row 13

Row 16: ch 1, * dc next 3 st, 2 dc next st, repeat from *, ss to first st to join (30 st)

Row 17: ch 1, dc around, ss in first st to join (30 st)

Row 18: Repeat row 17

Row 19: Repeat row 17

Row 20: ch 1, * dc next 9 st, 2 dc next st, repeat from *, ss to first st to join (33 st)

Row 21: ch 1, dc around, ss in first st to join (33 st)

Row 22: Repeat row 21

Row 23: ch 1, * dc next 10 st, 2 dc next st, repeat from *, ss to first st to join (36 st)

Row 24: ch 1, dc around, ss in first st to join (36 st)

Row 25: Repeat row 24

Row 26: ch 1, * dc next 11 st, 2 dc next st, repeat from *, ss to first st to join (39 st)

Row 27: ch 1, dc around, ss in first st to join (39 st)

Row 28: Repeat row 27

Row 29: ch 1, * dc next 10 st, 2 dc next st, repeat from *, ss to first st to join (42 st)

Row 30: ch 1, dc around, ss in first st to join (42 st)

Row 31: Repeat row 30

Row 32: Repeat row 30

Row 33: Repeat row 30

Row 34: Repeat row 30

Do not fasten off.

Ribbing:

Switch to H hook

Row 1: ch 6, sc in second ch and next 4 ch, ss in next 2 st of hat (5 st)

Row 2: turn, sc in back loop only of each sc, being careful to skip the slip stitches (5 st)

Row 3: ch 1, turn, sc blo in each sc, ss next 2 st on hat

Repeat Rows 2 and 3 around the hat until you run out of stitches around the hat, which will be when you do the slip stitches of Row 3. Then sc blo, turn, and slip stitch the front loop of the single crochets to the remaining chain loops of Row 1. Fasten off.



Embellishments

Using the size F hook and your embellishment yarn, you will be working surface crochet on the hat, which is just working chain stitches attached to the fabric.

Create a slip knot. Put this inside the hat and use the hook to pull it to the outside where you want to start your swirl.

With the loop on the hook, insert the hook in a space in the direction you want the swirl to go. Pull up a loop, being careful to use the yarn attached to the ball, not the tail. You have made a chain!

Repeat this, working in a swirl shape. You can insert the hook into any space, whether between stitches or through the strands of a stitch. Just make sure that the fabric remains relatively smooth, not bunched.

When you finish, pull the chain loop all the way through and tighten. Then pull the tail back to the inside and weave in both tails.

You can make any shape you want. Be aware that areas with surface crochet will not stretch the same way as regular crochet fabric, so be mindful of how large or where you add embellishments.

This cap is super customizable. You can add embellishments, like the swirls in the photo, or leave it plain.

You can make different shapes with the surface crochet, or add crocheted stars or flowers. Try adding stripes or a contrasting brim, and even a pompom, tassel, or chain loops to the end of the hat.

