

Free Crochet Cluster Stitch Baby Bonnet Pattern

Newborn – 3 Months -- Textured Cluster Stitch, Worked in the Round

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This bonnet is a lovely step up from a plain cap -- instead of smooth rows, the whole crown is textured with raised little clusters that catch the light and give it a soft, bobbly, hand-knit look. It's worked entirely in the round from the crown down, so there's no seaming and no fiddly shaping. Beginner-friendly, and works up in about 1.5-2 hours.

Materials

Yarn	DK weight (Category 3) -- approx 70-90m
Hook	4.0mm (US G/6)
Notions	Stitch marker, tapestry needle, scissors
Ties	60cm (24 in) narrow satin ribbon, or extra yarn for chain ties

Gauge

14 sts x 10 rounds = 4 inches (10 cm) over cluster pattern, unblocked. Gauge doesn't need to be exact for a bonnet, but if your crown is much larger or smaller than the Sizing table below after Round 3, adjust your hook size up or down.

Special Stitch

3-Double Crochet Cluster (3dcCl): Yarn over, insert hook into the indicated stitch, yarn over and pull up a loop, yarn over and draw through 2 loops -- 2 loops remain on the hook. Repeat this two more times, working each step into the very same stitch, until 4 loops sit on the hook. Yarn over and draw through all 4 loops at once. This leaves a small raised bump sitting proud of the fabric.

Sizing

Size	Head Circumference	Crown Diameter
Newborn	13-14 in / 33-36 cm	3.5 in / 9 cm
0-3 months	14-15 in / 36-38 cm	4 in / 10 cm

Pattern written for Newborn. Changes for 0-3 months in parentheses: Newborn (0-3 months).

Abbreviations

ch	chain
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sc	single crochet
dc	double crochet
sl st	slip stitch
3dcCl	3-double crochet cluster (see Special Stitch)
st(s)	stitch(es)
rnd	round

Pattern is written in US terms.

Instructions

Crown

With your yarn, make a magic circle.

Round 1: Ch 2 (counts as 1st dc throughout the crown). Work 7 dc into the magic circle. Pull tail to close center. Sl st to top of ch-2 to join. [8 sts]

Round 2: Ch 2, 1 dc in same st. 2 dc in each st around. Sl st to top of ch-2 to join. [16 sts]

Round 3: Ch 2, 2 dc in same st. *1 dc in next st, 2 dc in next st.* Repeat around, ending with 1 dc in the last st. Sl st to top of ch-2 to join. [24 sts]

For 0-3 months, work one more round: Ch 2, dc in each st around, working 2 dc into every 4th stitch (6 increases spaced evenly). Sl st to join. [30 sts]

Your crown should lie completely flat on a table. If it cups upward, go up half a hook size; if it ruffles, go down half a size.

Cluster Body

Cluster Round: Ch 1 (does not count as a stitch). 1 sc in first st. *3dcCl in next st, 1 sc in next st.* Repeat around. Sl st to first sc to join. [24 (30) sts -- count stays the same]

Plain Round: Ch 1. 1 sc in every st around, including into the top of each cluster. Sl st to first sc to join. [24 (30) sts]

Work in this order: **Cluster Round, Plain Round, Cluster Round, Plain Round** -- four rounds total, ending on a Plain Round.

Clusters naturally pull the fabric in slightly -- that's normal, and it relaxes once the Plain Round is worked.

Edge Finish

No folding or seaming needed -- the last Plain Round you worked is the face opening. **Edge Round (reverse sc / crab stitch):** Without turning your work, sc from left to right instead of the usual direction, working into each st of the last Plain Round. Sl st to join, fasten off, weave in end. A regular round of sc worked in the usual direction also looks lovely if you'd rather keep it simple.

Ties

Ribbon: Thread a 30cm (12 in) length of ribbon through the edge round stitches on each side, where the crown meets the body. Tie in a bow under the chin.

Crochet chain (no ribbon needed): Join yarn with a sl st at the edge where you'd like the tie. Ch 40. Sl st back along the chain from the 2nd ch from hook to the end. Fasten off and weave in end. Repeat on the opposite side.

Finishing

Weave in all ends securely. Block lightly by dampening the bonnet, shaping it gently over a bowl or your fist, and leaving to dry -- this helps the clusters sit evenly. Machine wash at 30degC in a mesh laundry bag, reshape and lay flat to dry.

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