



This free crochet summer baby hat is one of those projects that looks impressive but works up quickly — the whole thing is double crochet in the round, with a simple brim that curls outward to shade tiny faces from the sun.

It's lightweight, breathable, and very easy to customise. Work it in white cotton for a classic look, dusty rose for a soft feminine feel, or any colour you like — the simple shape lets the yarn do the talking. A small flower or button embellishment on the side makes it feel extra special as a gift.

What Yarn Is Best For A Crochet Summer Baby Hat?

For a summer hat, you want something **lightweight and breathable**. Avoid anything synthetic or heavy — a baby wearing a warm hat in the sun is uncomfortable very quickly.

100% cotton DK is our top choice. It's soft against baby skin, holds its shape after washing, and gives crisp stitch definition so the hat looks neat and intentional. A bamboo-cotton blend is also lovely — slightly silkier and even more breathable, though the stitches are a little softer to see.

Our pick: Any soft DK cotton. Lion Brand 24/7 Cotton or a similar brand works beautifully. You'll only need around 60–80m per hat — one 50g ball is more than enough.

Avoid wool for this one — it's too warm for summer and most baby-safe wools are heavier than ideal for a sun hat.

What Materials Do I Need For This Crochet Baby Hat?

- **Yarn:** DK weight (size 3) – approximately 60–80m, 100% cotton or cotton blend
 - **Hook:** 4.0 mm (US G/6)
 - **Notions:** Stitch marker (optional), scissors, tapestry needle
 - **Optional:** Small button, crochet flower, or bow for embellishment
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Gauge

Double Crochet: 9 stitches × 5 rows = 5 × 5 cm (2 × 2 inches)

Gauge matters more for hats than almost any other baby item – too loose and it falls over their eyes, too tight and it won't fit at all. Make a quick swatch first and adjust your hook size if needed.

Sizing Guide

This pattern makes a hat sized approximately **newborn to 12 months**, with a finished circumference of around **38–40 cm (15 inches)** and depth of approximately **14 cm (5.5 inches)**.

To size **up** (12–24 months): work an extra increase round after Round 4, adding 13 more stitches (65 sts total), then work the body and brim as written.

To size **down** (preemie or very small newborn): start with 10 dc in the magic circle instead of 13, and adjust the increase rounds accordingly.

Crochet Summer Baby Hat Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Meaning
ch	chain
dc	double crochet
sl st	slip stitch
YO	yarn over
st(s)	stitch(es)
FLO	front loop only
MC	magic circle

Pattern is written in US terms.

How To Crochet A Summer Baby Hat — Step By Step

(Work in joined rounds throughout)

○ How To Start With A Magic Circle

The hat begins with a magic circle — this pulls the centre completely closed so you won't have a hole at the top of the hat.

To make a magic circle: Wrap the yarn around your index finger once to form a loop. Insert your hook under the first loop, catch the second strand, and pull it through. Slide the loop off your finger but keep it loose — you'll work your stitches into it, then pull the tail to close it tight.

Round 1:

- Ch 1 (does not count as a stitch)
- Work **13** **dc** into the magic circle
- Pull the yarn tail firmly to close the centre
- Sl st to the first dc to join (**13 sts**)



○ How To Crochet The Crown Of The Hat

Round 2 — Double increase:

- Ch 3 (counts as first **dc** throughout)
- Work **2** **dc** into every stitch around (*including the base of the ch-3*)
- Sl st to top of ch-3 to join (**26 sts**)

Round 3 — Alternating increases:

- Ch 3
- *2 **dc** in next st, 1 **dc** in next st* — repeat around
- Sl st to top of ch-3 (**39 sts**)



Round 4 – Gradual increases:

- Ch 3
- *2 **dc** in next st, 1 **dc** in each of next 2 sts* – repeat around
- Sl st to top of ch-3 (52 sts)



After Round 4 the crown should lie flat. If it's starting to cup upwards, your tension is too tight – go up to a 4.5mm hook. If it's ruffling, go down to a 3.5mm hook.

○ How To Crochet The Body Of The Hat

Rounds 5-10 – No increases (6 rounds):

- Ch 3
- Work 1 **dc** in every stitch around (52 sts each round)
- Sl st to top of ch-3 to join
- Repeat for all 6 rounds

This is the section that forms the sides of the hat. It should feel like a small bowl at this point – that's exactly right.

○ How To Crochet The Brim

The brim is worked with a series of gradual increases over three rounds, which causes it to splay outward naturally and create that classic sun-hat silhouette.

Round 11 – Brim start (worked in **FLO**):

Working in the **front loop only** of each stitch creates a visible ridge at the base of the brim – this is the fold line.

- Ch 3
- Working in **FLO** only: *2 **dc** in next st, 1 **dc** in each of next 2 sts* – repeat around
- Sl st to top of ch-3 (*approx 69 sts*)

Round 12 – Brim continues (both loops):

- Ch 3
- *2 **dc** in next st, 1 **dc** in each of next 2 sts* – repeat around
- Sl st to top of ch-3 (*approx 92 sts*)



Round 13 – Final brim round:

- Ch 3
- *2 **dc** in next st, 1 **dc** in each of next 2 sts* – repeat around
- Sl st to top of ch-3
- Fasten off

How To Finish Your Crochet Summer Baby Hat

- **Fasten off** by cutting the yarn and pulling the tail through the final loop
 - **Weave in all ends** securely using a tapestry needle – work the tails back and forth through several stitches so they won't come loose in the wash
 - **Block lightly** by dampening the hat, shaping the brim over your hand, and leaving to dry flat – this gives a much more professional result than skipping the blocking step
 - **Add embellishments** if you like: a small crocheted flower, a bow, or a button on the side of the hat transforms it from simple to gift-worthy
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Crochet Summer Baby Hat — Frequently Asked Questions

What size does this pattern make? The pattern as written makes a hat for newborn to approximately 12 months, with a head circumference of around 38–40 cm. See the sizing guide above for adjustments.

Can I use worsted weight yarn instead of DK? Yes, but use a 5.0mm hook and expect a slightly thicker, warmer hat — better for spring or autumn than peak summer. Check gauge and adjust the number of body rounds for the right depth.

How do I add a flower or bow? Make a simple crochet flower in a contrasting colour and sew it to one side of the hat using your tapestry needle. A length of ribbon threaded under the brim stitches also works beautifully and ties at the back.

Can I sell hats made from this pattern? Yes — you're welcome to sell finished items made from Bloom Bonnet patterns in small quantities. Please credit BloomBonnet.com. Thank you for supporting indie designers!

How do I wash a crochet cotton baby hat? Machine wash on a gentle cold cycle and reshape by hand while damp. Lay flat to dry. Cotton hats keep their shape much better than acrylic when washed this way.