

Getting started with the Izzy Hat Tools

by Isabelle Mounet



This pattern serves as an example to use with the Izzy Hat Tools. Use it to familiarize yourself with them. Once you are familiar with the templates there is a whole world of hat pattern possibilities to make using your Izzy Hat tools!

The purpose of this pattern is to be more than a standard, follow-along pattern. Its purpose is to educate—to teach the underlying concepts of creating a basic hat shape, regardless of yarn weight or hook size used. It is my desire that you learn how to think beyond a crochet pattern and develop crochet skills that can help you expand your own design ideas and creativity.

Terms: This pattern is written in US Crochet Terms.

Skill Level: Beginner/Novice

Gauge, Yarn, & Hook: You may use any yarn and any hook size without the need to worry about gauge.

Other Materials: Izzy Template for the size needed, stitch marker, scissors, yarn needle

Stitches & Abbreviations Used: Magic circle (or you may do 4CH, SL ST in first CH to form a ring) - Chain (CH) - Half double crochet (HDC) - Single crochet (SC) - Slip stitch (SL ST)

IMPORTANT PATTERN NOTES

Note 1: This example pattern uses HDC as the primary stitch to make a hat. But these templates can be used with many different stitch types that are used to make beanie-style crochet hats - SC, DC, and more! Once you understand how to use the templates from this pattern you can experiment making hats with other stitch types.

Note 2: This pattern teaches how to make hat that is crocheted in a continuous spiral instead of traditional rounds. This is for the purpose of making a seam-free hat. So there is no need to slip stitch and chain at the end of each row. Use a stitch marker to mark the first stitch of the row and just move the stitch marker up each row as you progress. If you prefer to work in traditional rounds with a join at the end or are using a stitch or pattern where the slip stitch is needed to join at the end of a row, you may still do so.

Note 3: Depending on the yarn used and how tight you typically crochet you might consider using a crochet hook that is one size higher than the manufacturer recommendation for the yarn. This pattern is written in HDC which might make the the stitch a bit tighter than a DC stitch. But this will depend on the yarn you are using, the crochet stitch you use (SC, HDC, DC, etc) and your crochet tension.

PATTERN INSTRUCTIONS

This pattern consists of a main pattern and an alternate pattern to help you crochet the crown of your hat to the target diameter. You will know which one to use when reaching the edge of the template prior to making the body of the hat. Begin with working the crown, and only proceed to the Alternate Crown Pattern on Page 4 if instructed.

WORK THE CROWN

The general concept is to crochet in the round with increases until the edge of your crown exactly or very nearly matches the edge of your chosen size template.

Row 1: Make a Magic Circle leaving a long piece of yarn for a tail (or instead you may do 4CH, SL ST in first CH to form a ring). Then 2CH (counts as 1HDC), work 7HDC in the magic circle (or the 4CH ring). Do not join. Do not join your work on this row or any other row unless instructed otherwise. This will create a neat, seamless hat with no visible seam running down the back (See Note 2 on Page1). You may work the hat with joins if you choose. (8HDC)

Note: Always make sure you have 2HDC in the stitch prior to the stitch marker.

Row 2: Crochet 2HDC into the top of your 2CH from Row 1 (move the stitch marker to the top of the first of these 2HDC you just made), work 2HDC (this is what is called an “increase”) in every stitch around. Remember, do not join. (16HDC)

At this stage, I would recommend that you double-check your work by counting your stitches to ensure you have 16HDC. This is essential to building the crown accurately.

Lay your crown on the Izzy template you are working with and compare the diameter of your work with the rounded top of template. The rounded top indicates the size your crown will need to be for the particular hat size you are making. You may want to pull the beginning yarn tail of your crown through the central hole on your template to make measuring on the template easier. Continue to work as follows:

Row 3: Make 1HDC where the stitch marker is (move the stitch marker to the HDC you just made), 2HDC in the next stitch. *1HDC in the next stitch, 2HDC in the next stitch. Repeat from * all the way around. (24HDC)

Row 4: Make 1HDC where the stitch marker is (move the stitch marker to the HDC you just made), 1HDC in the next stitch, 2HDC in the next stitch. *1 HDC, 1HDC, 2HDC. Repeat from * all the way around. (32HDC)

As your crown grows, the number of rows you need to complete the crown for your hat size will vary depending on the yarn and hook size you are using. Continue making rows with 8 increases in each until the edge of your hat's crown matches, or very nearly matches, the rounded edge of your template. For example, if after Row 4 your crown is still significantly smaller than your template, then you will work another row with adding 8 increases as follows below.



Row 5: 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, **2HDC**, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, **2HDC**, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, **2HDC**, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, **2HDC**, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, **2HDC**, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, **2HDC**.
(40HDC)

But if the edge of your crown does not align with the edge of the template—and doing another row would make your crown too large—proceed to the Alternate Crown Pattern on Page 4.

When you have worked the crown until it exactly or very nearly matches the edge of your template, you may then move to the WORKING THE BODY section below.

WORKING THE BODY

Body Row 1: Make 1HDC where the stitch marker is (move the stitch marker to the HDC you just made). Then do 1HDC in each stitch around. (32HDC)

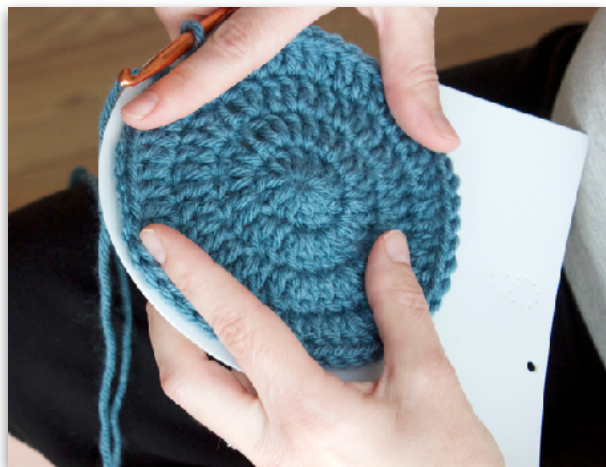
Body Rows 2+: Repeat Row 5 for as many rows needed until your hat's total height is the same , or nearly the same as the height of your hat template.

Please Note: The finished hat will not be the same shape/width as the template. The template will be more narrow than the width of your hat. This is normal.

When you are ready to finish the hat and join the final stitches proceed to Page 5.

ALTERNATE CROWN PATTERN

Use this pattern in the event that the edge of your crown is too small to match up with the edge of your hat template, but you know that if you were to work another row with increases, it would make your crown too large to match the edge of the template.



For example: Let's pretend that after working the crown on Pages 1 and 2 you end up with a crown that is too small to match the edge of your template but if you were to do another row of increase you know that it would make the crown larger than the template (as shown in the photo on the left).

This is where the alternate crown pattern comes into play. To remedy the situation you will work the next row (the one after the row that was "too small") with a fewer number of increases..

Figuring out the right number of increases may require a little bit of experimentation on your part. But stick with it, because learning how adjusting the number of increases can shape a hat is a very good crochet skill to have!

Pretending that Row 4 (from Page 2) is too small and doing Row 5 with 8 more increases would make your crown too large for your template, you will want to make Row 5 with fewer increases. A good place to start is doing half as many increases—4 increases—spread out evenly around the Row. Your Row 5 pattern would then proceed as follows:

Row 5: 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 2HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 2HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 2HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 1HDC, 2HDC. (36 HDC)

(This is only an example. The Row number that you would do this on in your work will vary depending on the size of hat you are making and other factors.)

Your crown will now have more of a bowl shape instead of being a flat circle because doing fewer increases will start to give the hat some shape. Without flattening your work compare your crown with the template. If your crown is still significantly larger than your template you may need to redo Row 5 with even fewer increases. Or if it is too small you will need to redo Row 5 with more increases. This will involve a little bit of experimentation. Your bowl-shaped crown does not have to be precisely the same diameter as the template, but the closer you are able to get it to match the better.

Once you have this row completed to your satisfaction you may proceed to the **WORKING THE BODY** section on Page 3.



FINISHING THE HAT

Make 1SC in the next stitch, and 1SL ST in the next 2 stitches to smooth the edge.

Fasten off your work and weave in the yarn ends. (Personally, I thread both yarn ends with a tapestry needle to meet in the middle of the inside of the hat to secure discreetly and for a secure hold.)

REMINDER: The finished hat will not be the same shape as the template. The template will be more narrow than the width of your hat as you can see pictured above. This is normal.

NOTES

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