

Newborn Caps, Baby Hats – Closed Shells



Crochet Hook – G, 4 mm

Yarn - #3 Baby, also known as DK or light worsted

Gauge, approx 4.5 dc per 1”

Notes: See below for **Slip Ring** instructions, or begin with a magic ring, or your preferred method.

Optional: Working in back loop only for rounds 2-4 creates a ridge between the 4 crown rows.

Newborn Hat Size Range: Circumference 11.5” to 13” Hat Height 5½” to 6” Laid Flat 5½” to 6½”

Larger hat: Adjust 4th row to 46 dc as base to make 12 shells for 12.5” circumference.

Smaller hat: Adjust 4th row to 42 dc as base to make 11 shells for 11.5” circumference.

Round 1: Form a **Slip Ring**, pull up a loop next to the knot, ch 3, 11 dc into the ring. Pull the ring tight as described below. Join with sl st to top of beg ch 3. (12)

Round 2: Ch 3, dc in same st, 2 dc in next st and each around. Join with sl st to top of beg ch 3. (24)

Round 3: Ch 3, dc in same st, *1dc in next, 2 dc in next, repeat from * around. Join with sl st to top of beg ch 3. (36)

Round 4: Ch 3, dc in same st,*1 dc in each of next 3 dc, 2 dc in next, repeat from * around, making 2 dc in last st (10 increases to total 46 dc as needed for shells row). Join with sl st to top of beg ch 3 (Or, make 6 increases to total 42 dc for smaller hat)

Round 5: Begin Shells. Do not ch, begin with the sl st end of round 4. *sk 1, 3 dc, sk 1, sc. Continue around from *, end row with 3 dc in the last dc of round 4.

Rounds 6-16 Sc in center dc of first 3dc cluster of round 5, sk 1dc, 3 dc in sc of previous row, *sk 1, sc, sk 1, 3 dc. Continue around from * without joining so that the center of each shell is stitched in the sc between shells of the previous row. End off with a sl st in the center of a shell of the previous row and weave in ends.

A **Slip Ring** is formed the same as the slip knot used to start a chain, except that the loose end is the one to pull tight after crocheting Round 1 into the loop. Form the loop and leave it open about ½ inch. Pull up a loop next to the knot to start crocheting into the loop as you would a chained loop. When Round 1 is complete, pull the loose end as tight as you want the hole closed up and weave the end in around the center to make a sturdy center. The slip ring works well for crocheting in the round where the center is to be fairly tightly closed. These instructions are included here as it does not seem to be a commonly described technique.