Crochet Balaclava

Ribbed Hooded Ski Mask with Cream Face Trim & Neck Collar



The finished balaclava in rust orange — ribbed hood, cream-trimmed face opening, ribbed neck collar.

Size	Adult, one size — fits heads approx. 53–61 cm / 21–24 in (teen and large counts on the sizing page)
Finished size	Panel 54 × 31 cm / 21.3 × 12.3 in before seaming; finished length crown to hem approx. 37 cm / 14.5 in
Skill level	Confident beginner — chain, half double crochet, single crochet, slip stitch
Gauge	13 sts × 9 rows = 10 cm / 4 in in half double crochet back loop only with worsted yarn and 6.0 mm hook

Materials

- Worsted (aran) weight yarn, approx. 460 m total: rust orange approx. 420 m (4 × 100 g balls), cream approx. 40 m (1 ball)
- 6.0 mm (J-10) crochet hook
- Yarn needle with a large eye, scissors, tape measure
- 2 stitch markers

Abbreviations (US terms)

- **ch** chain · **hdc** half double crochet · **sc** single crochet · **sl st** slip stitch
- **BLO** back loop only · **sk** skip · **sp** space · **st(s)** stitch(es) · **rep** repeat

Construction notes

The balaclava is worked flat as one ribbed panel in half double crochet back loop only. Each row runs from the neck hem up to the crown, so the 40 stitches of a row form the height and the 48 rows form the circumference. The face opening is a chain gap worked across the middle 16 rows. At the end the crown and back are seamed, the face opening is edged in cream, and the neck collar is worked in rounds onto the bottom edge.



Materials: rust and cream worsted yarn, hook, scissors and tape measure.

Part 1 — The Ribbed Panel (Rows 1–16)



The first ribbed rows of the panel on the hook.

Foundation: With rust, ch 41.

Row 1: Hdc in 3rd ch from hook and in each ch across. [40 hdc] The turning chain does not count as a stitch.

Row 2: Ch 2, turn, hdc BLO in each st across. [40 hdc]

Rows 3–16: Rep Row 2. Count 40 sts at the end of every few rows. The panel measures approx. 18 cm / 7 in wide so far — these rows wrap around the back of the head.

Part 2 — The Face Opening (Rows 17–32)



The folded panel: hood shape with the face-opening slot in the middle rows.

Row 17 (set-up): Ch 2, turn, hdc BLO in first 20 sts, ch 14, sk next 14 sts, hdc BLO in last 6 sts. [26 hdc + 14 ch = 40] The 20-st section sits below the opening (chin and neck); the 6-st section sits above it (forehead). Mark each end of the chain gap if it helps.

Row 18: Ch 2, turn, hdc BLO in first 6 sts, work 14 hdc into the ch-14 space, hdc BLO in last 20 sts. [40 hdc]

Rows 19–32: Ch 2, turn, hdc BLO in each st across. [40 hdc] The slot now measures approx. 18 cm / 7.1 in wide × 11 cm / 4.3 in tall.

Part 3 — Finish the Panel, Seams & Edging Set-Up



Working the cream edging around the face opening.

Rows 33–48: Rep Row 2 (plain hdc BLO rows). [40 hdc] Panel complete: 48 rows, approx. 54 × 31 cm / 21.3 × 12.3 in. Fasten off, leaving a 60 cm tail for seaming.

Crown seam: Fold the panel in half with the face opening centred at the front (fold between Rows 24 and 25) and the short edges meeting at the back. Whipstitch the two top edges together to close the crown.

Back seam: Whipstitch the two short edges (Row 1 edge to Row 48 edge) together below the crown seam.

Edging Round 1 (cream): Join cream at one corner of the face opening. Work 60 sc evenly around: 14 sc along the bottom chain edge, 16 sc up the first side (1 into the end of each opening row), 14 sc along the top edge, 16 sc down the second side. Sl st to first sc. [60 sc]

Part 4 — The Neck Collar



Crocheting the collar rounds along the bottom edge, below the face opening.

Rnd 1: With rust, join yarn at the back seam of the bottom edge. Ch 2 (does not count), work 48 hdc evenly around the bottom edge — exactly 1 hdc into the end of each of the 48 rows. Sl st to first hdc. [48 hdc]

Rnds 2–6: Ch 2, hdc BLO in each st around, sl st to first hdc. [48 hdc] The collar measures approx. 5.5 cm / 2.2 in deep and the neck opening approx. 38 cm / 15 in unstretched — the ribbing stretches comfortably over the head.

Fasten off and weave in the collar end.

Part 5 — Finish the Cream Edging



Weaving in the last end on the finished balaclava.

Edging Rnd 2 (cream): Sc BLO in each st around the face opening, sl st to first sc. [60 sc]

Edging Rnd 3 (cream): Rep Rnd 2. [60 sc] Working in the back loop only gives the trim the same ribbed look as the body.

Fasten off, weave in all ends, and lay the balaclava flat for a few hours so the seams settle. Finished length, crown to hem: approx. 37 cm / 14.5 in.

Sizing

Only the row count changes — the 40-stitch height and the chain-14 gap stay the same. Teen (44 rows): 14 plain rows, opening over Rows 15–30, 14 plain rows; collar 44 sts, edging sides 16 sc. Adult (48 rows): 16 plain, opening over Rows 17–32, 16 plain; collar 48 sts. Large (52 rows): 18 plain, opening over Rows 19–34, 18 plain; collar 52 sts.

Before You Go

Tips

• **Count the gap, not the row.** On the opening rows count 20, chain 14, count 6 — if those three numbers are right, the slot can never drift off centre.

• **Try it on before the collar.** Seam first, check the opening sits centred over your face, and only then work the collar rounds.

• **Keep the turning chain loose.** A tight ch-2 pulls the side edges in; the ribbing should stay springy from edge to edge.

Care: machine wash gentle, cold, inside a mesh laundry bag; reshape and dry flat. We hope your balaclava keeps you warm on every cold-weather walk.