Crochet Cowl

PATTERN

A chunky winter cowl in deep teal bulky yarn with a cream contrast stripe - worked flat in half double crochet and seamed into a loop. No shaping, no increases, no decreases.



The finished cowl, about 60 cm (24 in) around and 28 cm (11 in) tall.

Finished size	Approx. 60 cm (24 in) around x 28 cm (11 in) tall	**Skill level**	Beginner
Time	About 2 to 3 hours	**Terms**	US crochet terms

This cowl is one rectangle: 28 rows of half double crochet, a four-row cream stripe near the end, and a single seam that turns the rectangle into a loop. Keep your foundation chain loose, count your stitches at Rows 5 and 10, and the cowl will drape beautifully.

Materials

- Bulky-weight (#5) yarn in **deep teal**, approx. 150 g
- Bulky-weight (#5) yarn in **cream**, approx. 40 g
- 8 mm (US L-11) crochet hook
- Yarn needle
- Scissors
- 1 stitch marker
- Optional: a second colour for the stripe - mustard, blush or charcoal

Abbreviations (US Terms)

ch	chain	**sl st**	slip stitch
hdc	half double crochet	**st(s)**	stitch(es)
FO	fasten off	**BLO**	back loop only

Size & gauge: approx. 9 hdc x 7 rows = 10 x 10 cm (4 x 4 in) with the yarn and hook listed. To make the cowl longer or shorter, add or remove foundation chains in multiples of two; to change the height, add or remove rows, keeping the cream stripe four rows wide.

Step 1 - Chain the Foundation



Step 1 - starting the long foundation chain.

With teal yarn and the 8 mm hook, **chain 48**, keeping your chains relaxed. Lay the chain flat and check it measures about 60 cm (24 in) before you go on - a tight chain makes a stiff edge that will not drape.

Row 1: Hdc in the 3rd ch from the hook and in each ch across. **[46]** Place a stitch marker in the first stitch of the row.

Steps 2-3 - Work the Teal Body



Step 2 - the first rows of the teal body.

Row 1: With teal, hdc in the 3rd ch from the hook and in each ch across. **[46]**

Rows 2-20: Ch 2, turn. Hdc in each st across (19 rows). **[46]**

Count your stitches at the end of Rows 5 and 10. If you have more or fewer than 46, you have added or missed a stitch at the edge - fix it now rather than twenty rows later.



Step 3 - the body grows row by row.

By Row 20 the rectangle should measure about 60 cm (24 in) wide and about 20 cm (8 in) tall, with a soft, springy texture that folds easily. If it is narrower than 60 cm, your tension is tighter than gauge - go up to a 9 mm hook for the rest of the piece.

Step 4 - Add the Cream Stripe



Step 4 - working the cream contrast stripe.

At the end of Row 20, fasten off the teal yarn, leaving a 15 cm (6 in) tail. Join the cream yarn with a slip stitch in the first stitch of the next row.

Rows 21-24: Fasten off teal; join cream. Ch 2, turn. Hdc in each st across (4 rows). **[46]**

Work the stripe with the same even tension as the teal body so the edges stay straight.

Step 5 - Finish the Rows and Seam the Cowl



Step 5 - seaming the short ends into a loop.

Fasten off the cream yarn and rejoin the teal yarn.

Rows 25-28: Fasten off cream; rejoin teal. Ch 2, turn. Hdc in each st across (4 rows). **[46]**

Fasten off, leaving a long tail of about 60 cm (24 in) for seaming. Fold the rectangle in half so the two short ends meet, right sides together. Thread the long tail onto the yarn needle and whip stitch the ends together, working one stitch into the end of each row across **[28 seam stitches]**. Keep the seam neat and even - it will sit at the back of the cowl when you wear it.

Step 6 - Turn, Drape and Wear



Step 6 - the finished cowl, ready for winter.

Turn the cowl right side out so the seam sits on the inside. Weave in every end with the yarn needle, working the tails through the inside of the stitches so nothing shows on the outside. Drape the cowl in soft folds and give it a gentle shake - the chunky rows fall into place on their own. Wear it in a single loose loop, or fold it double on the coldest days.

3 Tips for a Perfect Cowl

1. Keep the foundation chain loose. A tight chain pulls the bottom edge in and the cowl will not drape. If your chains are tight, chain with a hook one size larger, then switch back for the rows.

2. Count the stitches at Rows 5 and 10. Forty-six stitches in every row keeps the sides straight. The most common mistake is losing the last stitch of a row, which slants the whole rectangle.

3. Match the stripe to your wardrobe. The cream stripe is the design feature of this cowl - swap it for mustard, blush or charcoal to match a coat, a hat or a pair of gloves you already own.

Happy crocheting! Make one for yourself this evening, then make a second as a gift - once you have the rhythm, the next one comes together fast.