Crochet Ear Warmer

PATTERN

A cozy twisted headband in rich burgundy with a thin cream edge - one simple herringbone rectangle, folded into a neat front twist, for confident beginners.



The finished ear warmer: a burgundy twisted headband with a thin cream edge.

Finished size	About 48 cm (19 in) around x 11 cm (4 1/4 in) wide; fits most adults (head 52-58 cm) with stretch	**Skill level**	Confident beginner
Time	About 2 to 3 hours	**Terms**	US crochet terms

An ear warmer is the perfect cold-weather project: it uses far less yarn than a hat, it fits in a coat pocket, and it makes a wonderful handmade gift. This one is worked flat as a single rectangle in herringbone half double crochet - no shaping, no working in the round. The rectangle is edged in cream, folded in half, and its ends are folded into each other to make the front twist, then seamed. Work in rows, turn at the end of every row, and keep your tension relaxed for a soft, stretchy finish.

Materials

- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn in **burgundy**, approx. 120 g / 220 m - the band
- Worsted-weight (#4) yarn in **cream**, approx. 20 g - the thin edge
- 5.5 mm (US I-9) crochet hook
- Yarn needle
- Stitch markers
- Scissors
- A ruler or tape measure

Abbreviations (US Terms)

ch	chain	**sl st**	slip stitch
sc	single crochet	**hhdc**	herringbone half double crochet
st(s)	stitch(es)	**FO**	fasten off
rnd	round	**RS**	right side

Gauge: 15 hhdc and 12 rows = 10 cm (4 in) with a 5.5 mm hook. Check your gauge: after Row 1 the rectangle should measure about 48 cm (19 in) long. If it is much longer, go down a hook size; if much shorter, go up a size.

Herringbone half double crochet (hhdc): Yarn over, insert the hook in the stitch, yarn over and pull through, then pull through the first loop on the hook, yarn over and pull through the remaining two loops. The slanted stitch gives the band its woven look.

Rectangle (burgundy)



Step 1 - the rectangle just started, in herringbone half double crochet.

The whole ear warmer is one rectangle, 72 stitches wide and 13 rows tall. Keep your tension relaxed - a slightly loose herringbone half double crochet makes a softer, stretchier band.

Row 1: Ch 74. Hhdc in the 3rd ch from the hook and in each ch across. **[72]**

Rows 2-13: Ch 2 (does not count as a st), turn, hhdc in each st across. **[72]**

You will have a rectangle about 48 cm (19 in) long and 11 cm (4 1/4 in) wide. Count your stitches at the end of Row 2 and again at Row 6: if the count drifts, the band will taper. Fasten off, leaving a long tail for seaming.



Step 2 - the finished herringbone rectangle, 48 cm long.

Cream Edge



Step 3 - the thin cream edge worked around the rectangle.

Rnd 1: Join cream at any corner. Sc evenly around the whole rectangle: 1 sc in each st along the long edges and 1 sc in each row-end along the short edges. **[170]**

The edge is 170 stitches around (two long edges of 72 stitches plus two short edges of 13 row-ends), so work one single crochet into each stitch and each row-end to keep the edge even. Fasten off and weave in the end.

Fold the Twist



Step 4 - the ends folded into the front twist.

Folding the twist: Fold the rectangle in half lengthwise, bringing the two short ends together, so the folded band is about 24 cm (9 1/2 in) long. Fold each short end in toward the centre, one over the other, so the two ends interlock like a folded ribbon: the top edge of one end tucks under the bottom edge of the other. Lay the folded twist flat and smooth it with your fingers - the pretty knot at the front is the twist, and the back stays flat and comfortable against your head.

Seam and Cinch the Twist



Step 5 - seaming the twist with a yarn needle.

Thread a yarn needle with the long burgundy tail and whip-stitch across the short edge where the four layers of the folded ends meet, working through all four layers so the twist cannot unfold. Take small, neat stitches and pull each one snug, then work a second line of stitches just beside the first for strength - this seam takes all the stretch when you pull the band on. Knot the yarn securely on the inside, then weave in every loose end, hiding them inside the fold where they will never show.

Finishing



Step 6 - the finished twisted ear warmer.

1. Check the seam: turn the band inside out and check the twist seam - re-stitch any loose spots before wearing.

2. Smooth the twist: turn the band right side out, centre the twist at the front, and give the whole band a gentle stretch so the stitches settle evenly.

3. Light blocking: lay the finished ear warmer flat, mist it lightly with water, and pat the twist and edges into shape. Let it dry flat and the herringbone stitches will relax into a beautifully even fabric.

4. Try it on: the twist should sit at the front, centred over your forehead, with the flat seam at the back. Your ear warmer is finished!

3 Tips for a Perfect Ear Warmer

1. Count the first rows. The rectangle needs 72 stitches in every row - if you lose count early, the band will taper and the twist will not fold evenly. A stitch marker in the first and last stitch keeps you honest.

2. Keep the twist flat. When you fold the ends together, press the twist flat with your fingers before seaming. A twist seamed while bunched up will sit bulky on the forehead instead of lying smooth.

3. Block it lightly. A gentle mist of water and a flat dry is all it takes: the herringbone stitches relax, the twist falls into shape, and the whole ear warmer looks store-bought.

Happy crocheting! Make one for yourself, gift one to someone who always feels the cold - and keep this pattern handy, because once you have made one ear warmer, you will want one in every colour.