



Tip of the Month—July 2016



The Perfect sized beanie

Last month we featured beanies and socks. One issue I always had, particularly when substituting yarn and/or adapting the pattern for different age groups was getting the right number of increase rows to get the right size. From the questions I received it is also an issue for others. I did some research and came across some guiding principles that I have found very useful and I hope you do to.

Step 1. Measure the head circumference.

To ensure the proper fit of the hat we need the **head circumference**. It is a measurement of a child's (adults') head around its largest area -- it measures the distance from above the eyebrows and ears and around the back of the head.

If you can't obtain the exact measurement, see the table below for the **approximate measurements** (head circumferences) for the ages.

Step 2. Crochet a Flat Circle Top of the Hat

Every crochet hat pattern starts from the top of the hat. The top of the hat is a **flat round circle**. The diameter of this flat round circle is your head circumference divided by 3.14. The diameter is a measurement of a circle in the thicker part (through the center). For example, you are making a hat for a newborn baby and the head circumference is 13" or 33 cm. The diameter of the **flat circle top of the hat** for this baby should be: $13" / 3.14 = 4.14"$ (10.5 cm)



To crochet a flat round circle you'll need to begin with 6 DC (Double crochet) and add (increase) 6 stitches in each round (not more, not less - that's a rule of a flat circle). This is achieved by doing 6 DC in the first round, 12 DC in the second round (2 DC in each stitch), then add 6 stitches in each round by adding a single stitch between the increases after the second row. You continue in this method until the diameter of your circle is the needed width you calculated. If you are using trebles, start with 12 TR and add (increase) 12 stitches in each round.

Hat Sizing Guide

Size	Approx Head Circumference	Hat Crown Diameter	Hat Height – crown to edge (no brim)
Premie	12" (30.5cm)	3.8" (9.7cm)	5" (12.5cm)
Newborn	13" (33cm)	4.2" (10.5cm)	6" (15cm)
0 – 3 months	14" (36cm)	4.5" (11.5cm)	6.5" (16.5cm)
3 – 6 months	15" (38cm)	4.8" (12.1cm)	7" (18cm)
6 – 12 months	17" (43cm)	5.4" (13.7cm)	8" (20.3cm)
12 months – 3 years	19" (48.2cm)	6" (15.4cm)	8.5" (21.5cm)
3 years – 10 years	20" (50.5cm)	6.4" (16cm)	9" (23cm)
Teen to Adult woman	21"-22" (53.4cm – 56cm)	6.7" – 7" (17cm – 17.8cm)	9" (23cm)
Adult Man	23" (58.54cm)	7.3" (18.6cm)	10" (25.5cm)