

Knitting for Our Troops – Crochet Version

Many of you have asked if there is a crochet version of this cap. There is now! Special thanks to Jani Fellows who designed this cap for our project. Crocheters are encouraged to work in any yarn that is at hand. However, if you would like to crochet a cap that a soldier can wear under his helmet for extra warmth while on duty, crochet in 100% soft wool yarn. Our Armed Forces are not allowed to wear synthetic fibers “outside the wire” – which means off the base. Wool is inherently non-flammable and won’t melt against the skin in the event of an accident and is warm even when wet. Please include the fiber content and care instructions (the skein wrapper would be great) with any delivery of hats, so that they can be properly labeled as an on-duty hat or an off-duty hat. Care instructions will be included with every hat.

Materials:

Lion Brand Lion Wool (100% wool) or Lion Brand Wool-Ease, 1 skein (or any soft washable wool) or synthetic yarn that will knit to gauge. Colors suggested by the USO – masculine browns, blues, olives, russets, black and desert tan.

Size G or H crochet hook or any size to obtain gauge.

Sizes: Average Adult

Gauge: 7sts. = 2”.

Pattern Stitch: Half Double Crochet (hdc).

Instructions:

Chain loosely 71 sts Join with slip st., hdc in 2nd ch from hook and each ch around, (70 hdc), join with slip st in first hdc., ch.1.

Next Row: Work 1hdc in each hdc around, join with slip st in 1st st, ch1. Repeat last row until hat is 4 1/2” above starting ch.

Decrease Row: * Work 1hdc in next 5hdc, pull up hdc loops in each of next 2 sts (6 loops on hook), yo and draw thru all 6 loops, (1 st decreased). Repeat from * around row. (10 sts., decreased)

Next Row: Work 1hdc in each hdc around .

2nd Decrease Row: * Work 1hdc in first 4 hdc, work 1 dec in next 2 sts. Repeat from * around row.

Next Row: Work 1hdc in each hdc around.

Repeat last 2 rows, working 1 st less between decrease sts each decrease round, with last dec row worked on every 2 sts. Fasten off, pull tail of yarn thru to under side and tuck in, repeat for starting yarn tail.