

The Little French Beret



The classic flat circle... the versatile French Beret! Here, contrasting colors and/or textures add a little zip and personality to the classic. Because it uses only partial skeins of 2 colors or textures, this hat is a beautiful way to use up the remnants in your stash. It's a quick project, working up in less than 3 hours, and is a great holiday gift.

Sizes and Materials List ...

Size:	Finished Beret is 9.5" diameter and fits most adult women's heads. Standard felt beret sizes are 9" and 10", and the band of this one stretches, which the traditional felt berets do not. A 7.75" (child size) beret can be made by skipping rounds 7 & 8.
Hook(s):	US I/9 (5.5 mm) or size needed to obtain gauge
Yarn:	<p>Substitution is encouraged for this classic pattern. Approximately 2 oz EACH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worsted weight wool, cotton, acrylic, or blended yarn, such as Plymouth Encore, Lion Brand Wool, or Paton's Wool for Main Color (MC) • Heavier, Aran weight fuzzier yarn, such as Lion Brand Jiffy, Encore Chunky, or Skacel Ocean for Contrasting Color (CC)
Colors & Approx. Yardage:	Any color, 130-140 yds.
Notions:	Yarn Needle
Gauge:	<p>Working in half-double crochet, 12 sts and 8 rows (alternating yarns, as in pattern) equals 4 inches.</p> <p><i>Always take time to check your gauge</i></p>



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Notes ...

Magic Ring	Place a slip knot on the hook, leaving a 9 in. tail. Wrap the tail once around your finger to form a ring. Holding the ring together, slip stitch into the ring, then work the number of chain and stitches specified for the first round. The ring will loosen somewhat as you work. When Round 1 is complete, pull tail firmly, on the wrong side, to tighten.
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Stitches Used	Chain (ch) Slip Stitch (sl st) Single crochet (sc) Half-double crochet (hdc) Reverse Single Crochet (rsc) - also known as Crab Stitch
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Abbreviations	Beginning (beg) Decrease (dec) Repeat (rep) Skip (sk)
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Decrease (dec)

Insert hook into next stitch and draw up a loop. Repeat in next stitch, yarn over and pull through all loops on hook.

Special Stitches

Reverse Single Crochet (rsc) or Crab Stitch

An edging created by working sc stitches in the opposite direction around the work. Tutorial videos are available in many places online if you have never used this versatile edging stitch

See <http://crochet.about.com/library/weekly/aa112997.htm> for a tutorial.

Additional Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Color changes are done in the slip stitch joining the end of each round, as follows: with loop of current yarn on hook, insert hook into indicated ch. Yarn over with the new yarn, and draw that loop through. Continue stitching, allowing the unused yarn to hang from the wrong side of the work. It will be picked up in the next row, at that same spot.• Entire hat is worked in rounds with right side facing.• Stitch counts are at the end of directions for each round. • Chain 2 at the beginning of each hdc round counts as first stitch (beg hdc) for that round.• Ch 1 at the beginning of each sc round does not count as a stitch.
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Instructions ...

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Main Beret

Round 1	With CC, work Magic Ring, ch 2 and 14 hdc in ring. Join with a sl st in top of ch 2, changing to MC. (15 sts)
Round 2	With MC, ch 2 (beg hdc here and throughout), *hdc in next st and in the space between it and the following st,* rep from * to * around, join with a sl st in top of beg hdc, changing color to CC. (30 sts)
Round 3	With CC, ch 2, hdc in each st around, join with a sl st in top of beg hdc, changing color to MC.(30 sts)
Round 4	With MC, ch 2, *hdc in each of next 2 sts, 2 hdc in next,* rep from * to * around. Join with a sl st in top of ch2, changing colors. (40 sts)
Round 5	With CC, ch 2, hdc in each stitch around, join with a sl st in top of beg hdc, changing color to MC. (40 sts)
Round 6	With MC ch 2, *hdc in each of next 2 sts, 2 hdc in next,* rep from * to * around ending with 1 hdc, join with a sl st in top of beg hdc, changing color to CC. (53 sts)
Round 7	With CC, ch 2, hdc in each stitch around, join with a sl st in top of beg hdc, changing color to MC. (53 sts)
Round 8	With MC, ch 2, *hdc in each of next 3 sts, 2 hdc in next,* rep from * to * around. Join with a sl st in top of beg hdc, changing color to CC. (66 sts)
Round 9	With CC, ch. 2, hdc in each st around, join with a sl st in top of beg hdc, changing color to MC. (66 sts)
Round 10	With MC, ch 2, hdc in each st around, join with a sl st in top of beg hdc, changing color to CC. (66 sts)
Round 11	With CC, ch 2, hdc in each st around, join with a sl st in top of beg hdc, changing color to MC. Fasten off CC. (66 sts)

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Round 12	With MC ch 1, sc in same stitch as joining and in each of next 2 sts, work 1 dec over next 2 sts, *sc in each of next 3, dec over next 2,* rep from * to * around, join with a sl st in ch 1. Do not change colors. (53 sts)
Round 13	Ch 1, sc in same st as joining and each of next 5 sts, 1 dec over next 2 sts, *sc in each of next 6 sts, dec over next 2,* rep from * to * around ending with 5 sc, join with a sl st in ch 1. (47 sts)
Rounds 14-17	Ch 1, sc in same st as joining and each st around, join with a sl st in ch 1. At end of Round 17, fasten off MC.
Round 18	Join CC with a sl st in 1st st of Round 17. Work around edge in rsc and join at end of round. Fasten off.

Crown "Tag"

With MC, ch 10, sl st in each ch. Fasten off. Thread beginning tail through 10th chain to form a ring. Thread beginning and ending tails of yarn through hole in center of Magic ring, and tie securely to any stitch on wrong side of round 1.

Finishing ...

Securely weave in all ends



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Model made by designer, photos by Donald K. Burger